It's time for the Folsom Street Fair Learn about the leather/fetish event's history and what's new for this year.

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Farewell to a pioneer Longtime gay activist Donald Lucas dies at 77

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Leathermen at play Plenty of hot action from Raging Stallion, Hot House. see Arts section



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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971





Governor Gray Davis, center, signs AB205 Friday, September 19 to cheers from Assembly-woman Jackie Goldberg, left, Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole Migden, second from right, and Assemblyman Mark Leno.

by Matthew S. Bajko and Cynthia Laird

hree days after Governor Gray Davis signed into law a sweeping domestic partners bill, the architect of California's antigay marriage initiative filed suit to have the measure overturned.

the measure overturned.

State Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale) moved on Monday, September 22 to have the courts rule AB205, the gay rights measure, unconstitutional. Knight has long argued the measure, which Davis signed before a packed crowd Friday evening at San Francisco's LGBT Community Center, violates his Proposition 22. The initiative, passed by voters in March 2000 defines marriage as solers. ers in March 2000, defines marriage as sole-

ly between a man and a woman.

"It's a sham," said Knight in a release issued Monday. "It's a backdoor, roundabout mechanism to override Proposition 22. ... What they're saying is they want to have the benefits without calling it marriage."

The lawsuit names Davis and other state officials with violating the state Constitution. When Davis announced last month that he would sign AB205, he pointed out that the Office of Legislative Counsel had determined that the new law does not violate Proposition 22.

AB205, authored by lesbian Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles) will
not go into effect until January 2005.
Equality California, a statewide LGBT advocacy organization that sponsored AB205,
blasted Knight's latest move. EQCA staff said
that Proposition 22 proponents promised
during the contentious 2000 campaign that
the ballot measure would not affect domestic partnership rights.

"The lawsuit filed by Senator Knight and

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# iverse identities often e

by Zak Szymanski

ook around many LGBT or heterosex

ook around many LGBT or heterosexual circles and you're bound to find at least a handful of nontraditional identities or relationship roles, from the queer "bois" to those whose orientations are "pansexual" to the "daddy/girl" couples. Gaining widespread acceptance has been a work in progress, considering the mainstream tendency to reject anyone who does not fit into a heterosexist mold. But the visibility of nontraditional full-time identities is growing, and in many ways, people with such identities who can live comfortably in their own communities have the leather community to thank.

A subculture built upon the ideals of consent, honesty, and respect, the leather scene has a long and proud history of ex-

ploring the forbidden, often with the goal

of personal growth.

"Leather people work with a lot of archetypes," explained Dossie Easton, MFT, a chettypes," explained Dossie Easton, MFT, a
San Francisco therapist and co-author of
The Topping Book, The Bottoming Book,
and The Ethical Slut. "When we play, we do
psychodrama through a whole bunch of
ways that it's possible to be in the world."
Identities and roles explored within the
leather scene include expressions of gender, age, and power.
For some people, their first taste of acceptance came from SM scenes that validated parts of their identities. And as they
learned to embrace these pieces of themselves, they were able to express them outside of leather circles as well.

"When we play with our dark stuff, we
are finding safe ways of going into the
shadows and retrieving stuff that got lost

in there," said Easton. "When we pull it up we are trying to make ourselves complete, to get integrity, to have all the parts of our-selves in our consciousness. We yearn for that; these are missing parts of our identi-ty. And it's not until we reclaim these parts that we can actually say what our identity

is."

The term "boi," for instance, now used regularly to describe gender roles and identities within dyke and other queer circles, originated as a leather term to describe a relationship dynamic, often in relation to a "daddy" figure.

Within the leather scene, "daddy" and "boi" labels are not limited to men, nor are they necessarily broken down into "top" and "bottom" or age-specific dynamics.

"Although the rules for engagement can be very rigid, there is a certain dynamic

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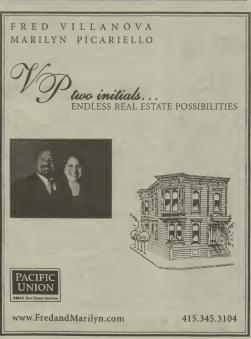
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# Lawsuit planned in **Castro cop shooting case**

he family and partner of a man who was shot and killed by San Francisco Police outside the Bagdad Cafe in the Castro last year plan to file a lawsuit against the city of San Francisco on October 7, the day before the one-year anniversary of the killing. That date also coincides with the one-year statute of limitations to file such a claim.

San Francisco police said they

San Francisco police said they were forced to shoot Jihad Akbar after he lunged at them with two large butcher knives he allegedly took from the restaurant. Akbar's friends and family say officers should have taken him into custody without shooting him and that police escalated the con-frontation by shouting and point-

frontation by shouting and pointing a gun at him.

According to witnesses, Akbar, who was African American and openly gay, was muttering the words "fags," "homosexuals," "white power," and "nigger," before the shooting. Friends and family say that Akbar, 28, suffered



Jihad Akbar

from depression and had battled an addiction to speed. A medical examiner's report released to was high on methamphetamine at the time of the shooting, according to Tim Silard, Akbar's partner. Silard, a San Francisco assistant

district attorney, sent a three-page letter of complaint this week to the San Francisco Office of Citizen

Complaints and to San Francisco
Police Chief Alex Fagan. The letter documents Silard's frustration
with not being able to obtain the
police reports on the incident.
"This is an outrageous infliction of additional excruciating
pain on myself, Jihad's parents,
brothers, grandparents, and all of
his loved ones. We have a right to
know what hampened that night

know what happened that night.

"Jihad was an incredible person," Silard continued. "He graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 1997 with an A- average, played varsity football for Cal and had been var-sity football captain at Berkeley High. He was a student leader, mentored kids from the community and volunteered with Big Brother/Big Sister, Senior Companions, and other community programs. He worked in juvenile justice and AIDS prevention and was deeply committed to the struggle for human rights, civil rights, and gay rights. I miss him more profoundly, more searingly, and in more ways than I can ever describe. nity and volunteered with Big

"Jihad was struggling with ad-

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# WCRC makes a splash next month

by Cynthia Laird

ant to swim a mile for charity? The Women's Cancer Resource Center Cancer Resource Center wants people of all ages to participate in its upcoming "Swim a Mile for Women with Cancer" event set for October 4-5 at the Trefethan Aquatic Center on the Mills College campus in Oakland. Now in its eighth year, the non-competitive event is a major fundraiser for WCRC, also based in Oakland The organization pro-

in Oakland. The organization provides several programs for all

women with any type of cancer. Darlene deManincor, an out les

bian cancer survivor, is on the board of WCRC and said the agency is vital as many women with cancer often have had limited ac-cess to quality healthcare, including

women of color, women from low-income communities, and lesbians. DeManincor leads a drop-in support group for lesbians with breast cancer. It's the only group

of its kind in the Bay Area.

Homophobia or lack of knowledge about lesbian health issues is a common problem, she said, and many lesbians often feel awkward

discussing their sexual orientation with their physicians.

"They [doctors] always ask about sex, they never ask about partners," she told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a recent telephone interview, "That's often awkward.

terview. "That's often awkward. Certainly, the sexual issue is al-ways an issue with cancer."
Getting lesbians to see a physician can also be a challenge.
"It's been documented that butch-identified lesbians are less likely to seek care," deManincor

WCRC also provides informa-

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# Hill arraignment delayed



Ex-commissioner Ron Hill

by Cynthia Laird

ormer San Francisco Health Commissioner Ronald Gene Hill appeared in Superior Court Tuesday, September 23 for arraignment under a seldom-used 1998 state law that he intenused 1996 state law that he intentionally infected his ex-lover with HIV. The arraignment was delayed, however, to give Hill time to get an attorney. Hill is expected to be in court again today (Thursday, September 25).

Hill, 46, was arrested at his Grass Valley home in Nevada County on September 16 following an indictment by a San Fran-

cisco grand jury. If convicted, he could be sentenced to eight years in prison.

Hill was appointed to the Health Commission by Mayor Willie Brown in 1997. At the time of his appointment, Hill openly disclosed his HIV status. He resigned from the commission in October 2000 after he was arrest-ed on suspicion of writing bad checks at a Sonoma County furni-

theeks at a Sonoma County three store.

Hill's former lover, Thomas Lister, 38, said that he met Hill online in early 2000. He has steadfastly maintained that he did not know Hill's HIV status and in July 2000,

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# Recall on, Log Cabin issues endorsements

by Cynthia Laird

he October 7 recall election of Governor Gray Davis is back on, after an 11-judge panel of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal on Tuesday, September 23 reinstated the election, reversing a decision last week by a three-judge panel to delay the vote.

The court ruled that the elec-

tion should move forward as it has already started. Absentee balloting began earlier this month. The American Civil Liberties Union had fought to postpone the election because voters in six counties, including Los Angeles, would have to vote with the error-prone punch-card ballots.

The ACLU announced shortly

after the court decision that it will not appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Supreme Court.
In other recall-related news,
Log Cabin California announced
Monday, September 22 that it has
endorsed GOP candidate Arnold
Schwarzenegger for governor in the recall race

"We believe that Arnold Schwarzenegger will be a governor for all the people of California," said Jeff Bissiri, chair of Log Cabin California. "He appeals across party lines and the ideological spectrum. His views on social issues put him squarely in the mainstream of California voters and his tough fiscal policies are precisely what our state desperately needs."

The Log Cabin chapter also came out in support of the two

initiatives on the ballot. The group believes that Proposition 53, which mandates funds dedicated for state and local infrastructure, "provides a balanced and guaranteed continuous source of state funding" for various projects.

Log Cabin stated that Proposition 54, the Racial Privacy Initiative authored by University of California Regent Ward Connerly, "is another significant step leading to a race and ethnicity blind society in which individuals are judged on

in which individuals are judged on their accomplishments."

Most LGBT rights groups, including the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, and Equility California conpose. and Equality California oppose Proposition 54. ▼



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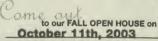
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# New Leaf staff picket over contract dispute

by Matthew S. Bajko

nionized staff at a gay nonprofit agency took their contract dispute with management to the streets last week in an effort to drum up community support in their fight over pay raises and medical benefits.

raises and medical benefits.

About 30 staff members at New Leaf: Services for Our Community and their supporters picketed Thursday, September 18 in front of the agency's Market Street offices across from the LGBT Community Center. The staff, members of Service Employees International Union Local 790, picketed for an hour between picketed for an hour between noon and 1 p.m., carrying signs that said "DP benefits now," "No Health Care cuts," and "We want a fair contract."

The union is demanding a 9 percent raise and that New Leaf pay for domestic partner benefits for their partners. Management has offered a 3 percent raise this year and contends it cannot afford to cover domestic partner bene-

fits.

In between blowing whistles and using a bullhorn to blast siren sounds, the picketers chanted "What do we want?" "Contracts!" "When do we want them?" "Now!" They intend to return to the pavement today (Thursday, September 25) to demonstrate.

"The pay is significantly lower

"The pay is significantly lower



New Leaf staffers picket the agency last Thursday.

than at other nonprofits. We are almost at poverty level and we are licensed professionals," com-plained Linda Huey, a Latina les-bian who has worked as a licensed marriage and family therapist at

the agency for two years.

Huey said she recently reduced her hours at New Leaf from 10 to eight hours a week in order to work elsewhere. "I have to do a bunch of other things to keep my head above water financially," said Huey as she waved at drivers who honked their horns as they passed.

While the employees staged their picket at a time that would

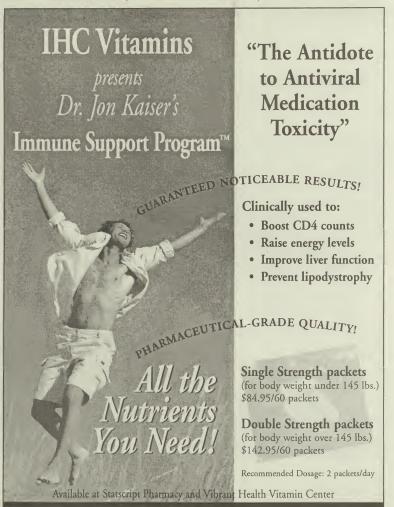
not adversely affect client services, workers said the contract dispute is having an impact on the quality of service clients receive.

"If the agency cannot provide for the employees it does impact the clients," said David Olem, a gay man who has worked as a clin-

ician at the agency for three years.

Talks over a new contract,
which expired June 30, began in May with the union asking for an 18 percent raise, which would have cost the agency an additional \$140,671 in salaries. Management's current offer of 3 percent

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# **Mayor axes Dunlop** from HIV Care Counc

by Zak Szymanski

s the community group that oversees the prioritization and allocation of federal AIDS funding for the city, San Francisco's HIV Health Services Planning Council – often called the Care Council – is made up of a variety of representatives from different agencies and groups. One of the groups with a seat on the Care Council is the city's Redevelopment Commission, which oversees Housing Opportunities

development Commission, which oversees Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS grants. And as the Redevelopment Commission's only openly gay and HIV-positive member, it made sense that Commissioner Mark Dunlop would fill the commission's seat on the Care Council.

Dunlop had been serving on the Care Council ever since his appointment to the Redevelopment Commission by Mayor Willie Brown in 1997. Brown had reappointed him to the Care Council twice, after two of his two-year terms expired. This year, however, when Dunlop's name was submitted by the Care Council for reappointment, Brown did not appointment, Brown did not approve it. Even more strikingly, Brown's office told the Bay Area Reporter that the reason for not reappointing Dunlop was political, and personal.

"This is a person who said he believed that the appointing authority for his very seat ought not to come from the person who appointed him in the first place," said P.J. Johnston, Brown's spokesman. "He has no confidence in, or respect for, the person appointing him, so it's unlikely he'll be winning respect in return."

Johnston said Dunlop made the statement that the mayor should not be in charge of such appointments about two years ago, in the midst of a public battle between Dunlop and fellow Redevelopment Commissioner Leroy King. At that time, Dunlop had accused King of making homophoic and AlDSphobic remarks to him, and the community uproar that followed painted the conflict.

as a "black versus gay" divide.

Dunlop, however, told the B.A.R. that the incident Johnston was referring to came shortly after the King debacle, when the Board of Supervisors wanted to hold a hearing to determine whether it should take control of the Redevelopment Commission. Dunlop said he simply spoke in favor of the board's right to have that hearing; he did not say that Brown should not make considerations.

make commissioner appointments.
Regardless, it was the perceived personal affront that was behind Brown's refusal to reappoint Dunlop to the Care Council, said

Johnston.

"If the mayor is overseeing any particular appointment it's highly unlikely that Mark Dunlop is going to be at the top of that list," said Johnston. "Let's just say that the mayor's term is coming to an end and there are very few appointments left for him to make, but if I were Mark Dunlop, I wouldn't submit my name."

Dunlop's reaction was one of

Dunlop's reaction was one of shock, both for not being reap-pointed, and for Brown's reported

reason for his decision.

"Obviously this has nothing to do with HIV, the Care Council, or the Care Council's work," said



Mayor Brown and Mark Dunlop in happier times

Dunlop, who added that by law the mayor must submit a justification for not reappointing him. Addi-tionally, said Dunlop, those not ap-proved for reappointment instant-ly become inactive on the council, chair left on the council's member-ship committee, "Mayor Brown has left the membership commit-

tee chairless, until it meets again."

"This decision hurts people with AIDS and hurts the people that I serve," said Dunlop. "It goes beyond affecting just me."

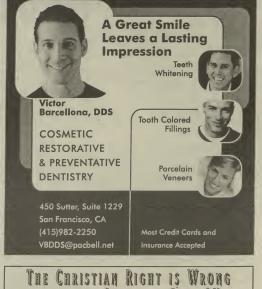
On Wednesday morning, September 2."

On Wednesday morning, September 24, Brown reportedly agreed to meet with Dunlop, a meeting that Dunlop said was "awful."

"Essentially he said I haven't been treating him with the respect he deserves, and there's no way he would reappoint me," said Dunlop. "This shows where his priorities are, and how care for people with AIDS rates over his ego. If he had any decency he'd be ashamed."

At press time, the mayor's office

At press time, the mayor's office was not available to respond to the alleged details of the meeting.





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# No on Props 53, 54

uesday's decision by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals allowing the October 7 recall to go forward puts an end to the legal challenges surrounding the historic election. Governor Gray Davis has been considered to the legal challenges surrounding the historic election. Governor Gray Davis has been considered to the legal challenges and the legal challenges are not provided to the legal challenges. been gaining momentum in recent weeks, perticularly in the gay community with his signing of AB205, the expansion of domestic partner rights and responsibilities bill, at a packed ceremony last Friday in San Francisco. The governor himself was treated like a rock star, with thunderous applause, chants of "three more years," and spontaneous comments from some in the audience. Yes, Davis is fighting for his political life, and we hope he prevails. Members of the community would do well to vote no on the recall (and to vote for Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante just in case Davis is recalled).

There are also two ballot measures on the October 7 ballot, and we urge voters to

reject both of them.

Proposition 53 would amend the state Constitution to create a transfer of money from the general fund to be used on state and local infrastructure projects. While we certainly know there are transportation, water, and other projects that need to be completed, we are deeply troubled by the

proposition, particularly in this age of deficits and a sluggish economy.

Perhaps the most disturbing part about this measure is that it locks its spending increases into the Constitution, and there seem to be no accountability requirements to ensure the money is properly spent. In other words, it virtually guarantees pork-barrel projects throughout the state, likely at the expense of other services. Jack O'-Connell, state superintendent of public in-struction, is opposed to Proposition 53, and with good reason. He fears possible cuts in education, as well as prolonged budget

Another major problem we have with Proposition 53 is that the Legislature is once again shirking its responsibility for spending bills by creating a constitutional amendment that will be permanent. What if there is a

Our lawmakers need to have the flexibility to prioritize spending – we don't need more constraints. Vote no on Proposition 53.

Proposition 54 is University of California Regent Ward Connerly's

latest effort to marginalize people of color. He did it before with Proposition 209, the anti-affirmative action ballot measure that passed several years ago. Proposi-tion 54, officially known as the Classifi-cation by Race, Ethnicity, Color, or National Origin, is also a constitutional amendment that would prohibit state and local gov-**Editorial** 

ernments from using race, eth-nicity, color, or national origin to classify students, contractors, and public employees, as well as other persons subject to other operations of government.

While Connerly's self-proclaimed goal of a

color-blind society is laudable, in reality, racial and ethnic data is valuable and used by public health officials to track diseases (and secure research grants). Racial data is also nec-

cure research grants). Racial data is also nec-essary to study possible discrimination on the part of law enforcement at it relates to racial profiling, and to help ensure that law enforcement agencies hire from a diverse pool of qualified applicants. Racial data is also important in ad-dressing disparities in public education. Medical associations are strongly opposed to Proposition 54, as are law enforcement groups, the League of Women Voters, and others. It is already against the law in Cal-

is already against the law in Cal-

ifornia to give preferential treat-ment in jobs, contracting, and college ad-missions based on race. We can't get to a color-blind society by banning information. Vote no on the misleading, unnecessary Proposition 54. ▼









# oing speed: playing with fire

by Tom Kennedy

t Tweaker.org, we get lots of e-mail about our Web site. Most thank us for the work we do. Several tell us that we're glamorizing speed, glossing over the reality of crystal meth with sexy graphics and irresponsible advice. One e-mail went so far as to say we should be gathered up

As a counselor who's worked with gay crystal users for five years, I'm not naïve to speed's dangers. Nor do I sugarcoat them. A -phrase that often leaves my lips is that doing speed is like playing with fire – saying any-thing else would be dishonest. Speed is not

a benign substance.

In my private life, I watched my exby friend go down in flames. I saw him through a long week of raging fevers, body aches, and thrush when he initially became infected with HIV. Within days, he returned to the pipe, hitting it harder than ever. More to the pipe, hitting it harder than ever. More than two years passed before he finally came up for air. And during the last 10 months of his use, he let a hunky but homeless dealer move in, then couldn't shake him loose, landed in jail, alienated his remaining friends, and eventually lost his apartment, along with most of his belongings. The man I loved had gone up in smoke. Finally, he fled the city to save himself.

This story isn't uncommon. However, it is not the only one being lived out in the party

not the only one being lived out in the party scene. The fact is that lots of gay men use crystal without getting HIV, bankrupting their lives, or seeking drug treatment. Some experiment and decide they don't like it. Othexperiment and accide they don't like it. Others use it occasionally, careful not to let it get out of hand. Many use it regularly and function well enough that no one can tell. And most stop of their own accord, long before the losses really pile up. It's a myth that everyone who does crystal inevitably goes down in flames – if that were true, the vacancy rate in the Castro would be much higher.

The message "Speed Kills – Just Say No!" is of little help to active crystal users simply because reality often contradicts it. For the legions already saying "yes" or "sometimes" to speed, what is more helpful is having access to accurate information about the fiery complexities of speed. That's what Tweak-er.org aims to be – a resource for people at

all levels of involvement.

Almost everyone familiar with speed knows its powerful effect as an aphrodisiac that gives Olympic staying power, as a confidence booster, and as a short-lived antidepressant. as a snort-ined antidepressant. Fewer people understand how the drug impacts the body, brain chemistry, mood, and overall sense of well-being. And even fewer can articulate how speed functions sociologically:

**Guest Opinion** how it acts as a social equalizer within our highly competitive community, giving many men a sense of inclusion they've been long

for all their lives.

The most critical discussion that's getting avoided – especially between friends – is how speed often hijacks someone's sex life and how this new, speed-fueled sexuality makes the transmission of HIV and other STDs much more likely. Many studies have found that gay men who do speed are more likely to have HIV – some indicate twice as likely, others three to four times more like-That's significant.

Our primary target audience is the men who are not seeking out substance use counseling but who may want to find out more about the drug they're already doing if given the chance. Providing this kind of service where any positive change in behavior is encouraged, forms the basis of a harm reduction approach to complex, entrenched

More traditional, abstinence-based alter-

natives already exist in abundance. There are 12-step meetings every day and even a gathering spot on 18th Street, the Castro Country Club. While these programs serve a vital function, they are not designed to address the concerns of a casual user or someone un-

the concerns of a casual user or someone un-willing to stop entirely. If we trust the often-quoted statistic that only one in 10 people achieve "ongoing recovery" in these pro-grams, then how do we help the other nine? The question I pose to new volunteers at Tweaker.org is, "What do you wish you had known at the beginning?" or "If you could tell something to the guys still doing speed, what would it be?" Much of the

content appearing on the Web content appearing on the Web site is created by current and for-mer crystal users. We offer "tweaking tips" that may help avoid common pitfalls, a Web forum to share ideas, and referrals to places where concerns ced in person.

can be voiced in person.

My mentor once said that if shame, guilt slaps on the wrists, and threats of unending torment were effective at modifying behavior, then the nuns would have turned gener-ations of Catholics into perfect angels. Our harm reduction effort is building momen-tum. We've launched a new version of the Web site and this week is the kickoff of our new advertising campaign at the old Names Project billboard space, next to Twin Peaks on Castro Street. We could use all the help and community input we can gather. Absti nence approaches are welcome, as abstinence is the ultimate form of harm reduc-tion. To volunteer or tell us what you think we should be saying, just send us an e-mail. Most likely, I'll be the one who reads it.

Tom Kennedy is the marketing coordinator for Tweaker.org and a counselor at the Stonewall Project

## LETTERS

### Why Milk went with Hallinan

I am writing on behalf of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club in response to columnist Wayne Friday's query as to why our club endorsed Terence Hallinan for district attorney. During the endorsement meeting, members mentioned over and over again that Hallinan has been a champion of medical marijuana, an issue that our community cares about deeply. Members also strongly believe that he has been a champion for progressive values for more than 30 years. His accomplishments include establishment of the first same-sex domestic violence program; innovyears. His accomplishments include establishment of the first same-sex domestic violence program; innovative alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders; record numbers of environmental prosecutions; and diversification of the D.A.'s office so that it represents all San Franciscans. The club respectfully disagrees with Wayne Friday's position on this race and welcomes the dialogue.

As we have mentioned before, the club has endorsed Tom Ammiano for mayor. Ammiano has a 32-

As we have mentioned before, the club has endorsed Tom Ammiano for mayor. Ammiano has a 32-year record of public service as a school teacher, school board member, president of the Board of Education, supervisors, and president of the Board of Supervisors. As mayor, Ammiano will rescue our troubled schools, revive our local economy and establish clean, professional government in City Hall.

Robert Haaland, President Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

#### Hint of heterosexism

I'd like to reply to the letter by Robert Meslinsky (Debatable differences, September 18). Before we canonize Matt Gonzalez, let's consider a few things. Matt got elected to the Board of Super-

Matt got elected to the Board of Supervisors as a Democrat, then switched to Green. Why didn't he run as a Green?
Next, he works a deal to become president of the board, denying Sophie Maxwell the position. Now he enters the mayoral election on the last day possible, further fracturing the progressive vote. All this before he's even served out his first term as an elected official!

There is a hint of heterosexism in all this. Do some on the left think a gay man can't become mayor, can't represent the entire progressive community? There's also political careerism involved here that's not all that different from politics as usual.

Matt Gonzales is intelligent and dedicated, but I

Matt Gonzales is intelligent and dedicated, but I did not find him to be "flawless" in the mayoral forum I attended. Tom Ammiano is intelligent and dedicat-I attended. Iom Ammiano is intelligent and dedicated as well, but he also has lots of experience. He's got fresh proposals for revitalizing the city's school district – key to the city's economic future – and resolving the problem of homelessness. Tom introduced the first living wage ordinance. He worked for the groundbreaking domestic partners ordinance, benefiting workers at United Airlines and other corporations doing business with the city. He understands the concerns of labor. concerns of labor.

Tom Ammiano is the best choice for mayor of San Francisco.

Ken Rackow San Francisco

[Editor's note: Matt Gonzalez switched to the Green Party before the December runoff election in 2000.]

### What about Kucinich?

What about Kucinich?

We're responding to the Paula Martinac column of August 14 ["Why I don't care about Dick Gephardt's lesbian daughter," Lesbian Notions] where she called the Democratic candidates "seemingly indistinguishable from each other." She didn't mention Representative Dennis Kucinich of Cleveland, Ohio. Kucinich is the only Democratic presidential candidate to support full federal recognition and protection of LGBTQ relationships, including civil unions/marriage, adoption, and immigration rights.

Since he joined Congress in 1996, Kucinich has been working for workers, consumers, the environment, and civil rights. He wants guaranteed healthcare for all as in a single-payer health system and wants to stop the privatization of Social Security. Kucinich wants to guarantee quality education through college,

wants to guarantee quality education through college, to support a woman's right to choose, to work for fair wages, and to save family farms. He fought to keep Cleveland's public utility from being taken over by a private firm while mayor of Cleveland in the 1970s.

private firm while mayor of Cleveland in the 1970s. He's not in lock step with the Democratic Leadership Council with his plans to withdraw from NAFTA and the WTO. Kucinich was the only presidential candidate to vote against the Patriot Act. He voted against the war in Iraq, wants to put an end to preemptive war and aggression, and to establish a Department of Peace. We invite the community to learn more about Kucinich's presidential platform and his congression-dal record. Talk to us when you see us tabling in the community or visit www.kucinich.us, or come to our next meet-up, held the first Thursday of every month (for times and locations, visit http://kucinich2004.meetup.com/).

Sue Fenstermaker, Lynn Eggers, Shivaun Nestor, Linda Williams San Francisco

### Disability lawsuits ring foul

I was very upset to read that La Mediterranee was being sued on by the Americans with Disabilities Advocates for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance ["Waves of disability lawsuits hit Castro," September 11]. As the former outreach and volunteer coordinator of Pets Are Wonderful Support, I had the opportunity to work with one of the owners of La Mediterranee, Ellen Sinaiko. Ellen was one of the most committed of 400 volunteers in the organization, volunteering several times a week. In addition, Ellen procommitted of 400 volunteers in the organization, volunteering several times a week. In addition, Ellen provided services and donation of food from La Mediterranee to go to volunteer appreciation events and for educational forums on how disabled pet owners can maintain pets. In short, Ellen is a dedicated champion for the rights of disabled persons.

Ellen tells me that La Mediterranee has many disabled customers, including individuals in wheelchairs, who regularly frequent the establishment and access it to their full enjoyment and has never received a complaint from anyone regarding disability access, in-

to their full enjoyment and has never received a com-plaint from anyone regarding disability access, in-cluding the plaintiff, George Louie. Mr. Louie never stopped to check with the restaurant to see if they provide reasonable accommodations to disabled per sons, which the article clearly states it does, therefore making it in compliance with ADA. I doubt he had ever even had a meal at the restaurant and tried some of the abilities with a property force. of the delicious culinary faire.

It is clear that the Americans with Disabilities Ad-

It is clear that the Americans with Disabilities Advocates has taken the extremely unethical approach of funding programs through blanket lawsuits that disrupt the community. Education, funded by donations and foundation grants, would be the proper mode for such an organization to meet the needs of our community. Unfortunately the agency has instead chosen legal threats against small business owners who are forced to settle

instead chosen legal threats against small business owners who are forced to settle out of court rather than pay the high expense of going to court.

The real crime here is not a restaurant that is in compliance with the ADA, owned by a well-respected individual active in providing services to the disabled in our community, but rather an organization which claims righteousness on behalf of disabled people with the upethical practice of alleged lawsuit people with the unethical practice of alleged lawsuit abuse for profiteering and self-gain.

Ned Howey

### A great interviewer

Mailstrom

A great interviewer

I want to express my appreciation for the fine work that Eric Ganther has done with his interview of me for the Queer Careers column ["Lesbian priest liberates God's image," September 11].

He was a pleasure to work with – personable, easy to talk to, trustworthy. He had thought-provoking questions and did a great job of condensing and shuffling our 1.5 hour interview into a page of text, while preserving the most important points. This was no easy task, and he had to deal with theological concepts and ideas which may be foreign to some readers.

and ideas which may be foreign to some readers.

I am grateful to have had this opportunity.

The Reverend Kathleen McAdams Palo Alto, California

### Catholics on a rampage

The official semi-monthly newspaper of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland reaches 98,000 families across Alameda and Contra Costa counties. For most East Bay Catholics, this paper is their only official source of church news.

official source of church news.

In May 2003, the paper reported the Vatican release of an 867-page lexicon on bioethics and the family. Unlike a dictionary, the lexicon explains terms with brief essays. Abortion, contraception, and, of course, homosexuality are prominent.

Repeating the usual defamation of homosexuals, the lexicon adds that we manipulate society into feeling guilty about homophobia, implying that Catholics should not take on this guilt. "Homosexuality has no rights because it has no social value," the lexicon declares

When a sardonic letter of approval subsequently appeared, I protested. The paper declined to print my letter, or any defending the human rights of sexual minorities. Instead, they printed a foreboding about "the homosexual agenda," and headlined the pope's latest harangue against same-sex marriage.

Roman Catholicism is a global organization centrally controlled from the Vatican, the religious equivalent of the Kremlin, and no less sinister. Within the Oakland Diocese alone, the Vatican instructs 536,000 Catholics and controls 88 parishes, two missions, 50 elementary schools, and nine high schools with the doctrine that Catholics should not feel guilty about their homophobia "because homosexuality has no rights and no social value."

Voters might remember this when considering tuition vouchers to Catholic schools.

Ronald Deziel El Cerrito, California

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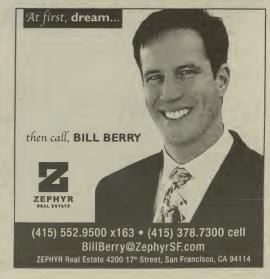


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# Anybody can sell my house. But I don't want just anybody. I want REAL ESTATE

# What is the history of the Folsom Street Fair?

by Liz Highleyman

September 23, 1984: The first Folsom Street Fair takes place in

Street Fair – the world's largest leather/SM/fetish event – reflects the history of both an urban neighborhood facing development pressures and a gay community confronting a devas-

community contronting a devas-tating epidemic.

San Francisco's South of Mar-ket District, or SOMA, was long a mixed-use, working-class neigh-borhood of warehouses, service businesses, and residential hotels, populated by seamen, longshore workers, bohemian artists, and immigrant families. By the 1960s it was home to some of the city's earliest LGBT institutions, including the country's first gay community center (opened by the Society for Individual Rights in 1966) and the office of the Daughters of Bilitis.

The area's cheap rents and deserted nighttime streets also atleather community, whose members eschewed stereotypical queer effeminacy for a more masculine style. The first SOMA leather bar, the Tool Box, opened in 1962; it gained renown when a photo of the bar, with its mural by Chuck Arnett, appeared in a 1964 *Life* magazine article entitled "Homosexuality in America.

For the next two decades, leather bars and bathhouses proliferated around Folsom Street, while the neighborhood's nar-row alleys proved ideal for cruising. Among the most popular haunts were the Ambush (which boasted its **Past Out** 

(which boasted its own brand of poppers), the Barracks (described by author and former Drummer editor Jack Fritscher as "a four-story maze of fantasy sex"), the Brig, Febe's (with its trademark mascot, Michelangelo's David dressed as a leatherman), and the Stort During leatherman), and the Slot. During



Having fun at the 1991 Folsom Street Fair.

this golden age, according to Fritscher, "peace, love, and granola would mix with hard leather, hard drugs, and hard sex," and the streets of SOMA hummed with

aderie.

But all was not well along the so-called Miracle Mile. SOMA had been eyed for urban renewal since the late 1940s, but

since the late 1940s, but redevelopment pressure increased in the late 1960s and again in the late 1970s – aided by a new pro-development mayor, Dianne Feinstein, who had assumed the position following the 1978 assassination of Mayor George Moscone and gay Supervisor Harvey Milk. In 1981, a large fire at the site of the Barracks bathhouse (by then closed and under renovation as a Barracks Dathhouse (by their closed and under renovation as a hotel) consumed more than 20 buildings and left many residents homeless. And in the early 1980s, AIDS hit SOMA hard, decimating the leather community. The re-sulting hysteria led the health de-partment to close the city's bath-houses and sex clubs in 1984, striking a further blow to the area's economic and cultural insti-

tutions.
To combat the threats facing the neighborhood, a coalition came together that included progressive ministers, social service providers, old-time labor organiz-ers, small business owners, affordactivists. Among them were Michael Valerio, an openly gay man of Filipino/Hispanic her-itage, and Kathleen Connell, an itage, and Kathleen Connell, an out lesbian with a long history of activism. Valerio and Connell were impressed with how Milk had used the Castro Street Fair (a street party celebrating the city's gayest neighborhood) as a platform for political organizing and community building, and Milk's successor, gay Supervisor Harry Britt, urged them to follow suit. The first Folsom Street Fair

The first Folsom Street Fair – dubbed "Megahood" – took place in 1984 on the autumnal equinox.

people, a dance stage, and a variety of performers, brought together the diverse elements of the neighborhood and demonstrated that, far from being a blighted slum, SOMA was a vital part of the city. "As a neighborhood or place of work, South of Market magnetically attracts the pioneers, the changelings, the cutting edge of industry, arts, entertainment, human and social relationships," read the fair's first invitation. "Not too far behind the concrete fa-cades, a pulsating, living mosaic-like community is alive and well."

Around the same time, another group was organizing to help the leather community cope with the impact of AIDS. To raise both funds and community spirits, Jerry Vallaire and International Mr. Leather Patrick Toner launched a second street fair in August 1985 on Ringold Alley, an infamous SOMA cruising strip. Two years later, under pressure from residents, this fair moved to nearby Dore Alley. In 1990, facing volunteer burnout, the organizers of the Around the same time, another teer burnout, the organizers of the Folsom Street and "Up Your Alley" fairs decided to combine their effairs aecided to combine their ef-forts and create South of Market Merchants' and Individuals' Lifestyle Events, which now pro-duces both events and puts out an annual Bare Chest Calendar. (Ear-

annual Bare Chest Calendar. (Earlier this year, the group changed its name to Folsom Street Events.)

In the late 1990s, the Folsom Street Fair experienced a revival as it increasingly drew leather and fetish aficionados from across the country and around the world and spanning the spectrum of sexual orientations. Dressed in their fetish finery – or sometimes nothing at all – fairgoers can pur-chase wares from internationally known leather craftspeople, listen to bands, give or receive a spank-ing for charity, or simply see and be seen. Many organizations began holding events in conjuncbegan induling events in conjunc-tion with the one-day fair, during what is now known as Leather Week. Today, the Folsom Street Fair is California's third largest public event, drawing hundreds of thousands of participants each year and raising a similar amount of money for community organizations. ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@black-rose.com.

### Suggested reading

Connell, Kathleen, and Paul Gabriel. 2001. "The Power of Broken Hearts: The Origin and Evolution of the Folsom Street Fair" (GLBT Histori-cal Society). www. folsom-streetfair.org/history.

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# Vote no on Prop. 54

by Wayne Friday

roposition 54, the so-called Racial Privacy Initiative, on its face, sounds to some like a legitimate move to protect personal privacy rights. This deceptive initiative, however, is little more than a short-sighted attempt to deny California's new reality as a multiracial society and would a multiracial society and would hamper a host of state agencies

working to end discrimination.
University of California Regent
Ward Connerly, the initiative's author, has cleverly seized upon a rhetorical opportunity by recast-ing the Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color, or National Ori-gin initiative as the Racial Privacy Initiative. This is what Connerly's Proposition 54 would do: Prohibit state and local governments from collecting or using race, ethnicity, color, or national origin data in public education, contracting, or employment. There tracting, or employment. There are a few exemptions in the measure for medical research subjects and patients and for law enforce-ment purposes; however, those ex-emptions are far too narrow and in some cases ambiguous at best, with interpretations likely ending up being decided in court. An ex ample: the exemption for law en forcement includes the suspect descriptions and under cover assignments, but law enforcement agencies

across the state say Proposition 54 would ac-tually constrict their efforts to fight racial and his sup

and his sup-porters say Proposition 54 would take race out of the equa-tion and move us closer to a color blind society; the idea being to make race irrelevant. However, race does matter in that racerace does matter in that race-based data is vital not only in de-termining and tracking many dis-eases that disproportionately af-fect various ethnic groups—in-cluding whites—but also in cover-ing racism. A broad statewide coalition of medical associations such as the American Cancer So-ciety, the American Heart Associ-ation, and the California Medical ciety, the American Heart Associ-ation, and the California Medical Association, along with numerous law enforcement agencies and civil rights groups say that Propo-sition 54 would further deepen the racial divide by eliminating data used to combat disparities. Specific information now used to study how certain diseases af-

to study how certain diseases affect different races – such as HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, sickle-cell anemia, and others – would no longer be available. While Con-nerly might want to be race-blind, diseases are not. Doctors and medical researchers now rely heavily on some non-medical race-based data to track these serious medical concerns.

Communities of color are united against Proposition 54 because it would block the enforcement of hate crime laws. Proposi-tion 54 would prevent the state from tracking race and ethnicity based hate crimes, and make it impossible to track racial profiling

in this state.

The state's progressive community is also united against Proposition 54, because the initiative would erode Californians' basic civil rights protections. The local campaign is being led by Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and respected attorney. Francisco) and respected attorney and district attorney candidate



From left, Assemblyman Mark Leno, Governor Gray Davis, and North Carolina Senator John Edwards at Cafe Flore in the Castro last Saturday

Kamala Harris, the co-chairs of San Franciscans Against 54.

The ill-conceived Proposition 54 does nothing but disable the public health system, obstruct disease prevention, and undermine civil rights. Vote down this dan-gerous ban on racial-data collection. Vote no on Proposition 54.

### Politics & people

Our Man Friday

Retired General **Wesley Clark** joins the race for the Democratic presidential nomination and that's good – let's hope that one of the 10 now

running will emerge next year to replace this arrogant, boast-ful Texan who got to the White House the White House only with the help of a Republican-dominated Supreme Court. It's

time we got rid of the swaggering frat boy president who claims his domestic and international policies are in the interest of

national security.

And San Francisco voters should note that no matter how they parse it, those supervisors who voted last week against Care Not Cash were truly thumbing their called in the cash were truly thumbing their called in the cash. their collective noses at the 60 per cent of the city voters who voted for it. Only Supervisors **Gavin Newsom** and **Bevan Dufty** voted consistently in favor of Care Not Cash, and no one is fooled with the tricky voting by Supervisors Aaron Peskin, Jake Mc-Goldrick, and Gerardo Sandoval, though they will claim to one and all that they actually voted for CNC, just as their constituents would have them do. To be fair, Supes **Tom Ammiano** and **Matt** Gonzalez's districts voted against it, so they voted the way their con-stituents did, but Tony Hall? This guy couldn't overcome his person-al dislike for Newsom long enough to vote the way his District 7 people wanted. As the San Francisco Examiner so aptly put it: "The two votes that probably will anger and disappoint district voters the most came from [Supervisors] Hall and [Fiona] Ma; the neighborhoods in their districts provided some of the strongest support for Care Not Cash at the polls, and it's doubtful voters there will be happy their elected representatives shot down

the measure."
After all was said and done, those who voted to kill Care Not Cash likely did Gavin Newsom a political favor – at least he can honestly say he tried to put something forward to tackle the still-growing homeless problem. As for Tom Ammiano? Too little, too late, Tom (and I can remember when this guy used to remind me

of Harvey Milk).

Mayoral candidate Angela Alioto's homeless plan? Well, ask Supervisor Chris Daly about that one. Daly called Alioto's plan "a nothing-burger" when interviewed last week by Bruce Pettit on the Comcast Newshour program. Daly then went on to blast Alioto for having a mayoral campaign "that is run by folks who aren't San Franciscans." Daly, who is supporting ciscans." Daly, who is supporting Matt Gonzalez for mayor this year, also took a shot at Ammiano, say ing that the Ammiano campaign lacks the "excitement" of four years

ago – and who says things aren't honky-dory at City Hall? Representative **Dennis Kucinich** (D-Ohio), one of the Democratic presidential candidates, will meet with members of the LGBT community Saturday, September 27 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center. The event is being organized by SF Queers for Kucinich. For more in-formation, call (415) 927-2004, ext. 33 or visit the campaign site at www.kucinich.us/glbt.htm. Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-

San Francisco) received television exposure that only a statewide candidate could long for this past weekend as he squired Governor Gray Davis, presidential candidate Senator John Edwards (D-North Carolina), and others

date Senator John Edwards (D-North Carolina) and others around the city, including a very successful foray into the Castro; Leno is a Democratic politico with a bright future in state politics.

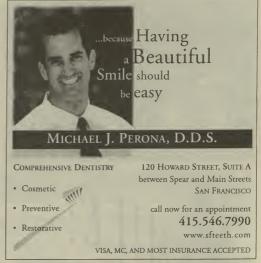
A momentary lapse: We're not sure who else noticed, but Mark Leno inadvertently referred to LGBT Community Center director Thom Lynch as Tom Foley during the ceremony Friday night tor Inom Lynch as Iom Foley during the ceremony Friday night when Governor Davis signed AB205, the domestic partners bill. Lynch looked as mystified as anyone. There are at least a couple of well-known Tom Foleys; the politician by that name used to be speaker of the House of Representatives, and there's also a baseball player named Tom Foley. Leno player named Tom Foley. Leno told the Bay Area Reporter this week that he's apologized to Lynch and delivered a copy of the signed AB205 bill to the community cen-

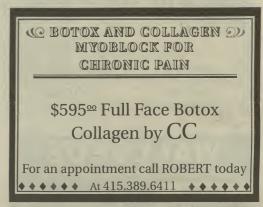
AB205 bill to the community center. Leno said that Lynch is a great guy. "It happened," Leno said. "The brain does strange things." And finally, the Game Show Network has snagged actor Gary Coleman and adult film star Mary Carey to take part in a gubernatorial candidate debate it plans to broadcast October 1. They will be among a panel of five who will appear on the show titled Who wants to be Governor of California, the network announced fornia, the network announced last week. It will feature a political

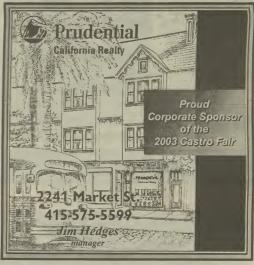
debate in the style of a game show.

Vote no on the recall; yes on

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# Local gay activist Donald Lucas dies at 77

by Paul Gabriel

ne of the most important early pioneers in gay rights, Donald S. Lucas, died in his home in San Francisco Monday, September 22, after suffering complications from Parkinson's disease and heart and lung problems. He was 77. As a leader of the national ho-

As a leader of the national homophile movement in the 1950s and co-founder of one of the earliest gay presses, Mr. Lucas helped break down the wall of invisibility and shaming silence that surrounded homosexuals and the topic of homosexuality. In the 1960s, he explored, through a path-breaking use of the federal poverty program, how the newly emerging and vocal gay community could learn from and contribute to the civil rights movement sweeping the nation. Over these two decades, he met and worked with some of the key individuals both in the United States and abroad who were working to remove homosexuality's stigma as a deviance and imbue it with a sense of dignity.

sense of dignity.

Born in rural, southeastern Colorado on June 27, 1926, Mr. Lucas grew up on a small ranch with his mother and quadriplegic older brother who also suffered from cerebral palsy. His father left the household early in the marriage and returned infrequently. When Mr. Lucas and his family would take trips into the local town of Florence, they were often shunned on the sidewalk and refused service in restaurants due to his brother's "difference." This unthinking injustice — along with his mother's strong unconditional love — formed early on an important basis for Mr. Lucas's political activism and strong sense of self-worth in the face of negative social pressure.

pressure.

After the death of his brother, when Mr. Lucas turned 18, he left for Tacoma, Washington, where he lived for five years. He worked in the shipyards during the war scraping clean the sides of liberty ships and in his spare time became an active member of the Tacoma Little Theater, participated in the production of educational films, and trained to be a professional magician, performing on the stage as the illusionist, "Jus Foo Ling" and swapping trade secrets with the likes of Harry Blackstone. Through a correspondence course, he also pursued his interest in the American Spiritualist Church, through which he eventually earned certification as a registered clairvoyant and medium. Later, in the early 1960s he served on its California state board of directors.

1960s he served on its California state board of directors.

Mr. Lucas had visited San Francisco once, in 1943, and was impressed with the beauty and magic of "The City." So six years later, in 1949, during a stopover in San Francisco on the way back to Colorado, Lucas decided to stay and settle. He continued performing in local theater until the middle 1950s, as well as securing walk-on parts in some minor Hollywood films, all while working by day for the North British Insurance Company between 1949 and 1960 as a claims manager. It was here that he acquired the basics of bookkeeping that became his livelihood.



Donald Lucas

Mr. Lucas's first exposure to a gay subculture came when he was living and working in Tacoma. In San Francisco, he did not fully engage himself with the local homosexual scene until an acquaintance invited him to a meeting of a San Francisco chapter of the recently re-formed Mattachine Society. This pioneering homosexual rights organization, begun in Los Angeles in 1950, was undergoing radical change. In the face of McCarthyism and government witch-hunts after "reds," "pinkos" and "queers," the membership decided to disassociate itself from its communist founders in favor of a more conservative public image. It also chose, however, to leave behind an organization of secret cells and hidden identities in favor of a public charter and fully identified leadership — a truly risky and daring act in 1953. In November 1953, Mr. Lucas attended a constitutional convention of the society in Los Angeles and from that point became progressively more involved in the organization — and thus chose to be one of only a handful of homosexual individuals in the United States willing to openly use his own name and picture while working for the cause of gay rights.

of gay rights.

During the 1950s and early 1960s, he served as a nationally recognized leader of the homophile movement, eventually taking on the role of executive director of the Mattachine Society

rector of the Mattachine Society from 1959 through 1966.

In 1954, he helped found the second gay press in the United States, the Pan-Graphic Press, and later the Dorian Book Service, both of which were vital in disseminating worldwide alternative information about homosexuality. He regularly corresponded with homophile activists in the U.S. and Europe, as well as answered letters from isolated individuals around the world who had gotten hold of copies of The Matachine Review and were hungry for any supportive source of information about homosexuality. He gave numerous lectures at colleges, universities, and churches throughout the United States and Canada, spoke on radio, and appeared on the first television program aired about homosexuality, The Rejected (1961), in San Francisco.

He also worked closely with and publicized the pioneering work of medical researchers such as Dr. Alfred Kinsey, Dr. Harry Benjamin, and Dr. Evelyn Hooker, providing them access to welladjusted gay men and women that they used for studies directly undermining prevailing psychiatric assumptions about homosexuality as a mental illness. And he formed freedom to read alliances with early sex researchers such as the Kronenbergs, who were challenging definitions of pornography and obscenity through the journal Sexology, to which Lucas was a periodic contributor.

In early 1966, he was one of a handful of activists to attend the first national conference of homophile organizations, and later that year, his decade-long work with sympathetic clergy led to his traveling to London, England, to the World Council of Churches meeting that helped lobby successfully the British Parliament for the decriminalization of homosexuality. Upon his return, he published *The Homosexual and the Church*, the first book presenting the homosexual's views on religion and sexuality.

buolished The Tomosekala that the Church, the first book presenting the homosexual's views on religion and sexuality.

Throughout the early 1960s, Mr. Lucas spent most of his time at the Mattachine offices in San Francisco performing what he called "lay counseling" for the society. Effectively filling the gap in community centers and social services for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender persons, Lucas worked with individuals who contacted the society with a whole variety of problems relating to employment, housing, civil rights, arrests, family, gender identity, and psychology. To help them, he sought out and helped build a network of social workers, psychologists, lawyers, journalists, business owners, clergy, and landlords willing to deal with homosexuals on more humane and equal terms.

This work occurred at a time when the San Francisco homophile movement experienced a period of significant growth. Mr. Lucas played an important role in the expansion of the movement, helping to found the Council on Religion and the Homosexual in 1964 (the first organization in the U.S. to use the word "homosexual" in its name) and working with several other organizations including the Society for Individual Rights (the largest gay rights organization in the United States in the 1960s) and the Committee to Fight the Exclusion of Homosexuals from the Armed Forces.

As Mr. Lucas's interest in social services and counseling increased in the middle 1960s, he was exposed not only to homosexuals in need, but to others in the Tenderloin and South of Market area who were confronted with a variety of problems. At the same time, Lyndon Johnson's Great Society agenda started spawning a variety of anti-poverty programs. In San Francisco, the Economic Opportunity Council was formed to distribute grants and establish neighborhood-based programs. In 1966, Central City (comprised of the Tenderloin and South of Market) became one of the five "target areas" within the city of San Francisco. From 1966 through 1969, Mr. Lucas worked his way from administrative assistant to director of the Central City Multi-Service Center.

vice Center.

While in that leadership role,
Mr. Lucas worked hard to fully
connect the gay rights movement
to the larger civil rights movement
and to build working coalitions

page 18 ▶

# **Get ready for Folsom!**

by Liz Highleyman

he ever-popular Folsom Street Fair will take place Sunday, September 28, from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. As always, the fair – which unfolds on Folsom Street between 7th and 12th - will bring together leather/fetish/BDSM aficionados of all genders and sexual orienta-tions from across the U.S. and around the world.

Fairgoers will experience several blocks worth of kinky fun and frolic, including two entertainment stages, a dance area, and numerous booths selling crafts and leather goods. Scheduled entertainers include Fabulous Disaster, Kitten on the Keys, the Big Burlesque fat-bottom revie and drag lesque fat-bottom revue, and drag

supergroup Pepperspray.

Celebrated author Armistead Celebrated author Armistead Maupin will participate in the Folsom Street Fair this year for the first time, as a benefit for Under One Roof, the shop that benefits the AIDS community. Maupin will sign books and merchandise exclusive to the store. Under One Roof's booth will be at the corner of 8th and Folsom streets

of 8th and Folsom streets.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the fair, which began niversary of the fair, which began as a way to bring the South of Market and leather communities together to face redevelopment pressures and the devastation of AIDS. [See Past Out column, page 8.]

The third largest public event in California, the fair now draws more than a quarter million attendees and raises hundreds of



Wendy and Nicos at the Folsom Street Fair.

thousands of dollars for charity. It is produced by Folsom Street

Events.

To mark the fair's second decade, there will be a birthday celebration at 1:30 p.m. at the 12th Street stage.

This year the fair will feature a brand-new Leather Lounge where leatherfolk can relax away from the hustle and bustles of the street.

the hustle and bustle of the streets.
The lounge will include a free coat and bag check, private bathrooms, a shaded seating area, snacks and beverages, and a large birthday cake. Passes (limited to 500) are \$50 in advance and \$60 on Sun-day, with proceeds helping support the fair's beneficiary organi-

zations.
The Folsom Street Fair caps off Leather Week, which includes a

Tonight (Thursday, September 25), San Franciscans and visitors 20), 3al Franciscalis and visitors have the opportunity to meet 2003 International Mr. Leather John Pendal at Daddy's bar, 440 Castro Street, from 8-11 p.m. On Friday, September 26, hear 1989 International Mr. Leather Topy Milk a physician speek at a

1989 International Mr. Leather Tony Mills, a physician, speak at a community forum on gay men's health, HIV, barebacking, drug use, and the leather community. The forum will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street.

Also on Friday, KinkyGAM and the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center presents the firstever community forum on Asians

ever community forum on Asians living in leather. This forum, fea-turing Tyler Fong, Pilar Leano, Midori, and George Wong, will run from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Women's Building, 3543 18th

Street.

That same evening, the women's SM group the Exiles invites women and FTMs to a Folsom ForePlay meet and greet party and art show. The art opening runs from 6-8 p.m. and the party from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Studio Z, 314 11th Street.

And don't forset the annual

And don't forget the annual Mr. SF Leather contest, unfolding Saturday, September 27 at the Ramada Inn on Market Street, with a victory party to follow at

For details about the Folsom Street Fair and these and many other Leather Week activities, visit



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# **ATest of Leadership** on HIV Preventio

Human Rights Watch wrote to Gov. Gray Davis urging him to sign SB 774 which will allow adults to purchase up to 30 syringes without a prescription in order to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS:

"Government-sponsored evaluations of both needle exchange and nonprescription pharmacy sales of syringes show that these programs dramatically reduce rates of HIV and hepatitis C prevention; provide impetus for the safe disposal of used syringes; and do not increase rates of drug use. Restricting these programs in the face of unassailable scientific evidence represents an affront to public health, and violates injection drug users' internationally recognized human right to take steps to protect themselves from epidemic disease...

Senate Bill 774 is a test of your leadership on HIV prevention and human rights. We urge you to sign it into law."

You too can send a letter to the Governor by logging onto www.HelpStopAIDS.com or calling the Drug Policy Alliance Network at 415-921-4987 or 323-254-4498 PAID FOR BY DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE NETWORK

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# **GAPA** endorses Ammiai

by Matthew S. Bajko

he members of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance en-dorsed gay supervisor Tom Ammiano for mayor after a forum with five of the leading candidates

"The group felt in general his take on issues and past experience make him the perfect package and that he would represent us the best," said GAPA board member

Robert Bernardo. Lesbian city Treasurer Susan Lesbian city Treasurer Susan Leal, former supervisor and attorney Angela Alioto, former Police Chief Tony Ribera, and Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez all competed with Ammiano for the gay Asian group's nod. The five candidates spoke to more than 40 people assembled at the Women's Building.

In his opening remarks, Ammiano congratulated the organization for being one of the city's longest-running gay groups.

longest-running gay groups.
"What would the year be without the 'Runway," he said, referring to the group's annual gala event.
The candidate most upset with

The candidate most upset with losing the endorsement was Alioto, who has yet to secure a nod from a gay organization. Alioto, who was a staunch ally to the gay community when she served on the board, pleaded with the group to endorse her.

"Tom has gotten a gay endorsement. [Ammiano is backed by the Harvey Milk Club] Susan has Alice [B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club]. You all hear me, it's my turn," said Alioto, who recalled



attending GAPA's first meeting in an attic near Duboce Park in the late 1980s. "I have been there 110 percent for this community. You are not going to sleep at night if I

don't get this endorsement."

But by far the biggest loser of But by far the Diggest loser of the night was Supervisor Gavin Newsom, the perceived front-run-ner in the race. The other candi-dates skewered Newsom for not at-tending the event and attacked him

on everything from his homeless reform measures to his connections to downtown business groups. "Care Not Cash is a fraud. Mr. Newsom is fundamentally a fraud," bellowed Alioto after being raud, beliowed Anoto after being asked about how she would tackle the city's homeless problem. "Homeless people should not be made criminals."

When it came time for him to

answer the question, Ribera asked "Where is Gavin today?" to which

Alioto responded, "He is never here."
The exchange prompted Ammiano to pretend to dial Newsom on his cell phone, saying "Angela, here's Gavin."

"He wouldn't have the guts to talk to me," she said.

Newsom's snub of the event raised the ire of some GAPA members and helped to validate his op-ponents' criticisms that he will pan-der to the city's elite and business interests if elected mayor. Polls con-sistently show. Newsom stagnating at less than 40 percent in the polls, with 60 percent of San Francisco

with 60 percent of San Francisco voters looking for an alternative.

As one audience member asked the mayoral hopefuls, "What is your plan to make sure Gavin Newsom is not my next mayor?"

To which Alioto responded, "He thinks he is getting away with murder. For him to not come to these companying waters for him."

these community events, for him to thumb his nose to San Francisto day in and day out when he needs your vote. Imagine where he is going to be when he doesn't need your vote," she said. "His arrogance is unbelievable."

rogance is unbelievable."

Leal pointed out Newsom has spent \$3 million promoting himself and his homeless plans over the last year and a half, yet he has not been able to increase his polling numbers.

"Over 60 percent of the people have said we know who you are; we are looking for somebody else," she said.

As for Ammiano, he said a Newsom mayoralty would be a

Newsom mayoralty would be a roadblock for progressive reforms.

"His absences are being noticed by the community. He doesn't want us to have the voice we have suffered for, we have died for, we have worked for," he said. "Once

that message gets out, he is a loser."

Voters will decide who wins
the race to replace Mayor Willie Brown, who is termed out of office, on November 4. ▼



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Ony Mills, M.D.
International Mr. Leather 1998

Join Positive Force at 6:30pm for beverages and light snacks before Dr. Tony Mills begins his talk - discussion begins at 7pm.

For more information about this forum, or any Positive Force event, please call Positive Force at 415.865.0790 x305.

Friday | September 26 | 6:30pm | L

LBGT Center



The number of syphilis cases in San Francisco has increased 1000% between 1999 and 2002...

a community plan

in San Francisco are among gay and bisexual men. Other cities around the nation and internationally have also seen dramatic rises in syphilis within their gay/bi communities.

of the San Francisco Department of Public Health has been moving aggressively to combat the reemergence of syphilis. Gay community organizations and individuals have also been working to respond to the new syphilis epidemic. However, while our efforts are showing progress, the number of new cases continues to grow.

Inis plan requires the mobilization of city government, community organizations, and gay and bisexual men to overcome the increasing syphilis epidemic in San Francisco. It is only through the full participation of all those concerned and affected by this disease that success can

The fact that syphilis has been shown to facilitate the transmission of HIV makes the goal of syphilis reduction that much more compelling. Gay and bisexual men, be they HIV+ or HIV-, have a vested integrated and transmission. interest in detecting and eliminating syphilis in our community.

### THE BASIC FACTS

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that is passed from one person to another through skin-to-skin contact during anal, oral or vaginal sex, when syphilis lesion/sores are present (even when unseen).

2 Open sores in early syphilis make it 2-5 times easier for HIV transmission to occur

Early symptoms (1-12 weeks after becoming infected, usually within three weeks) include a painless ulcer or sore at the site of infection - the penis, scrotum, anus, vagina or mouth.

Possible later symptoms (4-24 weeks after becoming infected, usually within 12 weeks) include one more of the following: body rash on the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet or a generalized body rash, fever, swollen glands and flu-like symptoms.

Left untreated, syphilis can cause severe headaches and hearing and vision loss as well as permanent heart and brain damage.

All symptoms will go away even without treatment, but one is still infected.

The test for syphilis is a simple, accurate blood test whose results are available in a few days.

Syphilis is curable.

# PLAN

### THE GOAL

Decrease syphilis cases in the gay community through:

### Expand syphilis testing and monitoring activities

- · Initiate free online testing program www.stdtest.org
- Provide training and laboratory support to community organizations to make testing more accessible.
- Increase testing at events, bars, sex clubs and other community sites.
- Continue tracking the epidemic by investigating cases and collecting necessary data. Provide partner notification services for clients who require assistance.

- Enhance clinical services
  Broaden the use of antibiotics (such as azithromycin) for preventative therapy.
  Increase azithromycin distribution through sex partners and field outreach.

### Facilitate citywide medical provider participation

Educate and motivate private providers to routinely test, examine and treat patients for syphilis Distribute patient educational materials to providers, including HIV and early care clinicians, public clinics, emergency departments and other key areas of hospitals.

### **Policy Initiatives**

- Support policies that result in improved sexual health for gay and bisexual men, including a Gay Men's Health Bill of Rights and same sex domestic partnerships.
- Promote screening guidelines testing every 3 6 months for men with multiple sex partners.

### Evaluation

- Monitor program activities/services quarterly to measure usage clinic visits, tests administered, etc. Carry out client satisfaction surveys. Conduct surveys to determine changes in awareness, knowledge and behavior.

# THE STRATEGY

The best way to stop syphilis is for those who have it to be treated and cured. Those who have been exposed, and infected but do not yet have symptoms should receive preventive treatment.

Gay and bisexual men who are sexually active with multiple partners should get tested for syphilis every 3 - 6 months. If everyone did this, those who had syphilis could be treated and we would be well on the way to eliminating it.

Preventing the spread of syphilis is difficult because it is easily transmitted through most types of sex - oral, anal and vaginal. Using condoms reduces risk, but does not eliminate it. Avoiding having sex with anyone who has syphilis sores will help, but it is not always possible to see the sores.

is available online at www.HEALTHYPENIS2003.org

#### Community STD Partners Committee

David Bandy Buzz Bense Nate Birjukow \* Stewart Coulter Michael Discepola Steven Gibson Jed Herman Don Howard leff Klausner \*

Jim Lukes Marcel Miranda \* Guiliano Nieri \* Les Pappas Jorge Partida Kevin Roe Jacqueline Siller \* Frank Strona Steven Tierney Wendy Wolf \* Will Wong \*

### **Sponsoring Community** Organizations

Black Coalition on AIDS

California Dept. of Health Services - STD Control Branch

HIV Assessment and Prevention service (HAPS)
HIV Prevention Planning Council

MAGNET

St. James Infirmary San Francisco AIDS Foundation Spikes Coffee & Tea's

Stop AIDS Project
The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association

The Stonewall Project
UCSF AIDS Health Project
UCSF AIDS Health Project - REACH Program

Walden House

# RESOURCES

FOR FREE & CONFIDENTIAL TESTING / TREATMENT / INFORMATION

City Clinic 356-7th Street, San Francisco Testing: Mon-Wed-Fri Sam-4pm Tues 1pm-6pm Thurs 1pm-4pm Phone: (415) 487-5500

Online syphilis testina at www.stdtest.org

MAGNET 4122-18th Street, San Francisco Testing: Wed-Fri 4pm-8pm Sat 1-5pm Phone: (415) 581-1600 www.magnetsf.org

Positive Health Program West 3180-18th Street, Suite 301, San Francisco Testing: Mon-Fri 10am-2:30pm

CDC National STD/AIDS Hotline 1 (800) 342-2437 24hrs day/7 days a wk

Web Sites www.HEALTHYPENI\$2003.org

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention www.cdc.gov

California Department of Health Services
www.dhs.ca.gov

# CAN DO

**Prevention**The most effective way to prevent syphilis is to be certain that the people you have sex with do not have syphilis. This can be accomplished by talking with your partners, getting a test and encouraging those you have sex with to get tested.

Proper use of latex condoms will reduce your risk in both anal and oral sex. Reducing the number of sex partners will also decrease your chances of getting syphilis. You can avoid sex with anyone who has symptoms, such as sores on penis, mouth or anus, but someone may have symptoms that you can't see.

Testing
Sexually active gay/bi men who have multiple partners should be tested for syphilis every 3-6 months. If you think you may have had sex with someone who had syphilis or if you have symptoms, get tested and treated right away.

If you get syphilis you should stop having sex and get treated. If you continue having sex while being treated it is possible to get reinfected or infect others.

You also have a responsibility to tell your recent sex partners that they may have contracted syphilis from you. You can contact them yourself or you can give their name to the Health Department and they will confidentially contact them for you.

Preventative treatment with an antibiotic called azithromycin is available to give to your previous sex partners and sexually active friends. If they are infected with syphilis bacteria but do not yet have symptoms, this drug can help prevent them from developing an active syphilis infection. If they do have symptoms they will need to see a doctor.

Advocacy
Finally, we can all take on the job of making our community more aware
of the current syphilis epidemic. You can speak with your doctor. You can
tell your friends and sex partners what's going on. Pass this plan along or tell
people about our web sites.

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more aware...?



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# **Partner rights**

his allies clearly shows that this fight is not about marriage," said EQCA Executive Director Geoff Kors. "Instead, this is a fight over whether lesbian and gay Califor-nians should be treated equally

#### Pep rally

Pep rally
Last Friday's AB205 signing ceremony resembled a pep rally for the embattled Davis, who's facing an October 7 recall election. The crowd erupted into sustained applause when he entered the community center's Rainbow Room shortly before 7 p.m.
"Can you travel?" the governor asked the audience, clearly enjoying the support. "Can I take you with me?"
Davis then reiterated his sup-

mg the support. Can I take you with me?"
Davis then reiterated his support for the LGBT community.
"We started the journey in 1999," Davis said, referring to previous legislation by former Assemblywoman Carole Migden that created the statewide domestic partner registry. "When I was inaugurated on January 3, 1999, I said I want to bring down the curtain on wedge-issue politics."
The governor went on to say that building family relationships is the way that society moves forward.

is the way that society moves for-ward.

"I want all of California to move forward," he said.

Davis pointed out that AB205 is as much about rights as it is about responsibilities. Registered domestic partners will take re-sponsibility for one another's debts, and there will be a joint as-sessment of income for determin-ing eligibility for state government ing eligibility for state government assistance programs

Benefits include decision-making authority for funeral arrangements and disposition of remains, community property, and custody provisions and child support oblig-ations, and access to divorce court. In short, AB205 provides all

the rights and responsibilities available to married couples that the California Legislature is able to grant. The new law does not provide the more than 1,000 federal rights extended to married heterosexual couples.

"This legislation is a two-way

street," Davis said.
Molly McKay, co-executive director of Marriage Equality California, issued a statement over the weekend noting AB205 is not gay

marriage.
"Yes, having almost all of the state rights that come with marriage provides our partners with tangible, critical rights," McKay stated. "But, the state is creating a stated. "But, the state is creating a separate institution instead of simply granting us access to mar-riage – the Canadians got it right the first time." McKay was referring to the fact that Canada now allows gay mar-

riage.

McKay, who was at the signing Area Reporter that "the powers that be" who organized the event asked that she not wear the ubiquitous white wedding dress that uttous white wedding dress that she has worn to numerous events, including the celebration in the Castro in June following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision overturning sodomy laws. Photos of McKay in the dress have been featured in several media outlets, including the San Francisco Chronide and Newsweek magazine.

cle and Newsweek magazine.
EQCA's Kors told the B.A.R.
Monday that he spoke with McKay prior to the signing ceremony, but did not tell her what or

what not to wear.
"My only issue is the wedding dress gives the impression of mar-riage," Kors said.

Last Friday's ceremony came as a surprise to many in the gay com-munity. For weeks, Davis aides and gay rights activists had said the governor would sign the bill at the end of the month in Los Angeles, home to the bill's lead author, Goldberg.

Plans had called for a dual

signing ceremony, with perhaps the governor's wife, Sharon, in San Francisco. As of noon last Thursday, community center Executive Director Thom Lynch had yet to

Director Thom Lynch had yet to hear where and when the signing would take place.

Late Thursday, Davis announced he would sign the bill in San Francisco after appearing Friday with former Vice President Al Gore at an afternoon antirecall sulty. The decision disappointed.

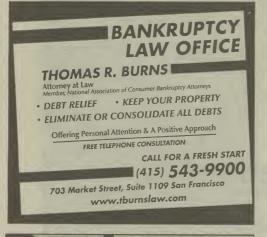
Gore at an afternoon antirecall rally. The decision disappointed Goldberg, who had to fly into town Friday for the ceremony.

"We do understand Ms. Goldberg's wish to have it in her backyard. We are sorry we couldn't accommodate her," said Davis aide Russ Lopez, who explained an opening in Davis's schedule allowed for last week's signing. "The time was right for the governor." Davis, who said "I don't want to get on the bad side of this woman," during the ceremony, may still stage an event in Los Angeles with Goldberg.

As for the assemblywoman, she said she holds no hard feelings to-

said she holds no hard feelings to-ward Davis for moving the loca-

tion up north.
"We just couldn't find time in the governor's schedule to have the signing in L.A.," she said. "The important thing is to see the bill signed into law."









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# MCC layperson Keith Apple dies at 60

by Cynthia Laird

memorial service will be held this Saturday, September 27 to celebrate the life of ber 27 to celebrate the life of Keith Apple, a longtime layperson with the Metropolitan Community Church of the Redwood Empire in Guerneville. Mr. Apple died August 20 of complications from AIDS and liver cancer brought on by the disease. He was 60.

Mr. Apple was a vocal advocate of gay rights and up until two weeks before his death, he delivered food to homebound AIDS patients. He served on the boards for

tients. He served on the boards for the Sonoma County Commission on AIDS and West County Health Services, according to an obituary in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat. The Reverend Troy D. Perry,

founder and moderator of MCC,

founder and moderator of MCC, said that Mr. Apple was one of the fellowship's "premier lay leaders."

"Keith was a person of deep and profound spirituality who lived his commitment to the Christian faith with authenticity and integrity," Perry said in a statement. "He lived out his faith through his involvement in all facets of leadership within Metropolitan Community Churches, including a variety of boards and

politan Community Churches, including a variety of boards and commissions."

Mr. Apple's true passion was EXCEL International, an affiliated ministry of MCC led by lay people that primarily holds retreats. Perry noted that Mr. Apple discovered MCC in 1977 through the work of EXCEL, and later became international director of the international director of the group.

In addition to his work with MCC and his involvement in community work, Mr. Apple was a successful businessperson and operated a consulting firm that

operated a consulting firm that provided diversity training for corporations.

Mr. Apple is survived by his partner of 19 years, Ralph Whysong. Mr. Apple met Whysong at a religious retreat years ago. In 1990 the couple moved from Marin County to Cazadero, where they raised dachshunds together, the Press Democrat noted. Democrat noted.

Mr. Apple is also survived by his mother, Estle Hume of North

Manchester, Indiana.
Saturday's memorial and celebration will take place at 2 p.m. at the Odd Fellows Hall, 16219 First Street, in Guerneville.

### **Donald Lucas**

**◄** page **10** 

that today would be labeled multicultural. Central City was the only San Francisco target area that did not directly couple poverty with race, but instead looked more complexly at the host of urban communities that were forced into second-class economic status and sought to build innovate alliances between them. novate alliances between them His agency served gays and les-bians, impoverished elders, runbians, impoverished elders, runaway youth, transsexual street
hustlers, skid-row alcoholics and
drug users, and poor Filipino and
African American families. Mr.
Lucas welcomed all of these
groups into the multi-service center, giving them employment and
encouraging them to create the
services they needed but were not
receiving. A list of major accomplishments achieved under his
tenure include: launching the first
urban mobile health van in the
United States; helping to establish
the first Hospitality Houses for
runaway youth in San Francisco;
supporting the creation of a Comsupporting the creation of a Com-

munity Center in South Park, San Francisco's most impoverished African American neighborhood; fostering the pocket park concept for densely urban areas; providing a space for the National Transsexual Counseling Unit, the first of its kind in the U.S.; having on staff the first community relations police officer to a gay community; and establishing a Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation office that initiated crucial national redevelopment legal battles in the early 1970s. (Mr. Lucas sat on its early 1970s. (Mr. Lucas sat on its board of directors in the late 1960s and early 1970s and served for a time as its chairman.) Throughout the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, Mr. Lucas continued to

work for communities in need by co-founding the North of Market Senior Services and then serving on its board of directors, as well as that of the Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinics. He also joined and became an active member of Kiwanis International.

In 1999, Mr. Lucas donated his In 1999, Mr. Lucas donated his life papers to the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgender Historical So-ciety in San Francisco, which staged a major exhibit at the San

Francisco Main Library on the Francisco Main Library on the significance of his life work, "The Illusion of Conformity: Don Lucas and Sleight-of-Hand Activism in San Francisco, 1953-1969." Those papers have now been fully processed and are available for use by researchers and the general public. They include very rare complete audio recordings of all the early Mattachine Society national conferences in the 1950s, as well as audio tapes of national as well as audio tapes of national board meetings, radio appear-ances and lectures by Mr. Lucas, and a documentary radio series produced on the homophile movement in San Francisco in the mid-1960s. These reel-to-reel tapes are being transferred to protect them for posterity and are not presently available for public use. A memorial service is being

planned for sometime in November. Donations in Mr. Lucas's name can be made to North of Market Senior Services, the Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinics, Kiwanis International, San Francisco Chapter, or the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society of San Francis-co.

# Leather comm.

◆ page 1

where we do play with gender roles," said Vick Germany, the title winner of SF Dyke Daddy 2002, and a member of the women's SM group the Exiles. "I do a lot of daddy/girl stuff, which some people think is about infantilism, but for me that's not the case. For me it's about a relationship dynamic, and it can be very fun to play with a woman who identifies as a girl." Likewise, within dyke circles, there are social nuances that accompany those identified as bois, particularly for those who fall along the female-to-male spec-

along the female-to-male spec-trum, adopt male pronouns with-in their subcultures, and yet un-

 Mitsubishi • Dodge

like FTM trans men, still identify, on some level, as female. Easton, for instance, said she has counseled many female-born people who are opting for chest surgery but aren't necessarily considering transitioning into men.

With such distinct subsets of people groups like the Fyiles are

With such distinct subsets of people, groups like the Exiles are jump-starting conversations around gender identity in order to accommodate those who do not fit comfortably into strict definitions of a "man" or "woman." Exiles officers have reportedly adopted a mindset that allows flexibility around membership without ty around membership without compromising the club's women-only ideals. And the Exiles already welcomes male-to-female trans-gender and transsexual women, a policy far ahead of many womenonly spaces throughout the coun-

try.

The same goes for men's leather groups like the 15 Association, which welcomes FTM trans-

tion, which welcomes FIM trans-genders and transsexuals, regard-less of surgical or hormone status, as long as their identifications read as legally male. Just as new genders and roles have emerged from the leather community, so too have sexuali-ties; the term "pansexual," for in-stance which recognizes the range stance, which recognizes the range of bodies of identities when it comes to attraction, was first used regularly to refer to certain leather play parties, according to Easton. Now the term has made it into more common vernacular, and is used to described desire regardless



A slave at the Folsom Street Fair

of one's leather affiliation. It is within sexual subcultures, believe many leather folk, that flexible identities are allowed to be explored without fear of rejection. And as the sex-positive communi-ty grows larger, nontraditional identities once limited to play

space have made their presence known in the larger world. "It used to be, none of us passed for 'normal'," said Easton. "Now, even within mainstream culture, there is more acceptance of diversity."  $\blacksquare$ 

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# OBITUARIES

Robert Charles Montaldo Sept. 25, 1944 — Sept. 15, 2003



Robert moved his life from the sanctity of his rest at the Maitre Hos-

pice on September 15, 2003 at 9:30 that evening. Sharing his existence with his long-time in the street of the two spents of the two spents of the street of

years of his life, providing him with comforts to which they had both become accustomed. Robert and Bill's family dog, Wolf, misses his company. Robert is also survived by his mother Evelyn, his brother Jack, and his sisters Nancy, Linda, Joan, and Cede. A celebration of Robert's life will be held at the San Francisco Swedenborgian Church located at 2107 Lyon Street. The date is Friday, October 3rd, at 1 p.m.

#### Carlton Jay Wong, M.D.

Carlton Jay Wong, M.D.

A committed partner, son and brother, Carlton Jay Wong died suddenly at his home in San Francisco on Sunday, September 14 following an extended illness. He was 42.

Carlton was born in San Francisco in 1961, a third-generation member of the Chinese community. A disciplined youth, Carlton attended Lowell High School and graduated from Yale University where he double majored in molecular biology and art history. Carlton then went on to study medicine at the Northeast Ohio College of Medicine followed by his residency in Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC).

He met his life partner, Eric Miller, in 1993 while studying in Pittsburgh. Following graduation from UPMC, Carlton began his career as a Rehabilita-

tion Physician at Hillside Medical Center in Ohio. He then returned to San Francisco with his partner and joined the Permanente Medical Group at Kaiser Medical Center in Santa Theresa. Carlton was known and loved by his many coworkers and patients. He will be remembered for always being quick with the engaging smile, a friendly compliment and a helping hand. Carlton was also well known in his community as an activist and organizer. He supported many community beautification efforts in the Eureka Valley neighborhood and was a member of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association. Among his efforts were tree plantings through the Urban Porest program which resulted in dozens of trees in the neighborhood including those on Sixteenth Street between Sanchez and Church Streets. Carlton had a lifelong interest in the decorative arts, therapeutic gardening and real estate. Carlton is survived by Eric Miller of San Francisco, his mother; Mar Shee Wong of San Francisco, his grandmother; Carlene Wong-Lee of Menlo Park, his sister, and his nephew Kendall and niece Kristina Lee. He will be sadly missed by coworkers, patients, friends and the neighbors of Pond Street. Donations can be made to the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, 94109.



With all due respect to the other obituaries, we sought to find comfort in submitting the following. Tuesday. September 16th. 3 hearts were broken. Our old pride 6 jay, Nissy, was put to her final rest due to various complications. We would like to thank the merchants of the Castro for being so kind and supplying water 6 biscuits to all the dogs that pass through. WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU MISSY.



Mark T. Kelly, 45, of San Francisco and formerly of Cambridge, MA. passed away Aug. 31, 2003, after a long and brave struggle 2003, after a long and brave struggle with cancer. Among his many West and East Coast friends, Mark was beloved for his loyalty, unfailing sense of style, and deadpan wit. Mark moved to San Francisco in 1993 and was a widely respected marketing executive at Zone Labs and other Bay Area technology firms. He had a unique ability to translate the most ear communications for the user's

unique ability to translate the most complex technologies into clear communications for the user's benefit. Known to close friends as "Pheeney" Mark was a co-founder of the Barbie Support Group, which has regularly crashed the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade since 1995. He was legendary for his retailing skills and sense of what was style and what was fad. Friends, while shopping in the finest boutiques around the world, would call him for emergency consultations. A tall, lean fellow with a beautifully styled head of blond, wavy hair, Mark chose to not wear socks from Easter until Thanksgiving. He was adored by his nieces and nephews. Mark's family and the Mark Kelly Support Group wish to thank his doctors, nurses and others at UCSF for their hard work, big hearts and compassion. Mark was surrounded by a room full of family and friends in his final moments. Funeral mass was held in Cambridge, MA. on Tuesday, Sept. 9th. He is interred at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge. In lieu of flowers please send donations in Mark's memory to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, memory to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham MA 01701, or to the Leukemia Lymphoma Society, 495 Old Connecticu

# WCRC

tion for physicians and healthcare professionals, she said.

Many of the lesbians in the

drop-in group have been to various hospital support groups, but choose WCRC because the group

is specifically for lesbians.

DeManincor said her own ex perience with cancer about 20 years ago helped jolt her into action. She did not have breast cancer, but another form of the dis-ease that she asked not be printed. "When I was diagnosed it was a bolt out of the blue," she said. Other

women she encountered "didn't have a clue what would happen." DeManincor, a Ph.D., has de-grees in both the biological sciences and the social sciences. She worked for 25 years in medical re-search, primarily in endocrinolo-

search, primarily in endocrinology. "I've been there, I know the medical system and I know medical research," she said.

In the WCRC drop-in group, deManincor said she primarily goes over the various treatment options for breast cancer.

"I do say there are lots of ways to treat breast cancer," she explained. "There are options."

While a lot of women are afraid of chemotherapy, deMan-

incor said that if breast cancer is diagnosed in the first stage, there

diagnosed in the first stage, there may be other options.

As for the upcoming swim-amile fundraiser, the event is open to all ages, from children to grandparents. Many will swim in memory or honor of friends and loved ones with cancer. The fundraising call is \$150 per participant see goal is \$150 per participant, according to WCRC's Web site.
For registration information, call

(510) 601-4040, ext. 180 or e-mail swimamilewcrc@yahoo.com. To request a form or to register online, visit www.wcrc.org. For more information about WCRC's free services and support groups, visit the Web site or call (510) 601-4040. ▼



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# Freak factor

#### by Jim Provenzano

n honor of this weekend's Folon nonor of this weekend's Pol-som Street Fair, here's a pot-pourri of the interesting array of kinky sexual acts – or strange and sexual behavior – of a bevy of alleged heterosexuals in the sports

Comic Joe Rogan raised a few plucked eyebrows
with his new shaved and
waxed look in the latest Men's Fitwaxed look in the latest Men's Pri-ness (i.e., porno for closet cases). The formerly furry Fear Factor host looks fit to be plowed in one pose, showing off his flexibility from all those years of martial arts training. See you at the next circuit party, Joe!

Our top story, or is it bottom? Among the near dozen rookies that the Cleveland Indians recent-

Tadano's one-time freelance job in a gay porn video sure ain't the norm at ESPN.

#### Ta da! No

Hold your hors-This is not the earth-shattering al-leged "gay baseball play-er outing" the media worked itself into a frenzy over a while back. Besides, Brendan Lemon dates Latinos.

While a poor struggling swinger in his home country, according to the Cleveland Plain Dealer, sportscaster Jim Rome, and other sources, Tadano made a mere \$750-1,000 for performing in a Japan-ese gay sex video. There was some talk that a shoulder

injury may have dis-suaded Japanese clubs

from hiring Tadano, and caused some major league teams to back away. But the reveteams to back away. But the revelation that Tadano (along with several of his college teammates at Rikkyo University) was paid to play with different bats altogether in the video obviously played a big part in his difficulty finding a team.

Said the gravel-voiced Rome of Tadano's off-season exploits.

Tadano's off-season exploits,
"That would qualify you as a gay
porn actor. If you are making
movies committing homosexual
acts, I'm guessing you've met all the requirements

"I'm also guessing that this won't be a major distraction and it won't cause any dissension in the clubhouse. A group of enlightened individuals (i.e. ballplayers) would-n't have any problem with that. We'll just assume that people like Todd Jones and John Rocker will

Take the players take note:

some baseball players take note: You can perform in gay porno, just don't be gay.

"The initial opportunity for us came by seeing his talent with no contractual guarantees," Indians general manager Mark Shapiro said. "After we had a chance to talk to him and watch his interaction with other players, we made the decision to sign him. It was our assessment that the event in the past was an isolated incident. It past was an isolated incident. It was not a pattern of current or future behavior. He was young and

made a one-time mistake."

The Indians signed him for \$67,000, and were the only major league U.S. team to offer him a contract. At the time, they made it clear that they would support Tadano when the video became public knowledge. When Tadano told his story in

April to fellow players in Kinston, North Carolina, where he started the season, manager Torey Lovul-lo was in the locker room. "Watching how our guys react-

ed to Kaz, how they encouraged him and supported him, was one of the most emotional moments I've ever had in baseball," said Lovullo.

A few blushing press

nouncements and guilt-ridden confessionals later, Tadano, baseball reps, and sports journalists seem only too happy to forget the entire affair, as Tadano claims he is

heterosexual, and was only in it for the

money.

Apparently, being openly gay, and unable to even get a date, is a bigger deal.

Now, if only it had been another player, say former Indian and Baltimore Oriole Brady Anderson, who Sports Complex Brady Anderson, who was actually traded from the Indi-ans for Tadano and several other

players, many fans would be ec-static. Of course, if Anderson simply hadn't been dumped from the Indians, or did several porn videos, even more fans would

### Worldly good

Would topping on tape make Tadano gay enough for the Gay Softball World Series, held last month in our nation's capital? Probably not. In Washington, D.C., a Hous-

in washington, D.C., a Hous-ton team filed a protest with tour-nament officials alleging that an-other team wasn't gay enough. The Houston Force, of the Montrose Softball League, sought to disqualify the Atlanta Power for having two more straight players than the rules allowed. This is one of the more problematic regula-tions of this league. After a rigor-ous inquisition (Liza karaoke?), they brought players in one by one and asked about their sexuality The Atlanta club was exonerated and allowed to play, gaily.

### Homo on the ranger

Fans at a recent Texas Rangers game may not have been in gay porn, but likely viewed it once or twice.

Members of Dallas' gay and

lesbian volleyball league, its gay rugby team, its gay softball leagues, and the Texas Gay Rodeo Association attended a Rangers baseball game on September 14. A based a game of the whitekingly rabid antigay fans called foul, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported, giving the homophobes more press than the hundreds of well-behaved gay and

nundreds of well-behaved gay and lesbian attendees, who attended the game as part of a fundraising event sponsored by the Rangers.
Rangers flaks, not unlike Disney's, never outright admitted to events being a sanctioned "Gay Day" (The Florida Marlins, however did earlier this year, to scant criticism.) Nevertheless, news of the gay athletes' plans to attend the Rangers game caused one loon to launch a Web site in opposi-

"This is a family event," said protest organizer Rick Warden, who told the Star-Telegram that he doesn't expect the team to bar gay people from the ballpark (how Christian of him), but that he does expect them to refrain from facilitating what he calls "the gay

agenda of normalization."

Apparently Mr. Warden prefers us to remain in our straps and chaps, celebrating sexual experimentation, or remaining relegated to the cartoon parodies of *South Park* characters. Goodness,

South Park characters. Goodness, next thing you know we'll be asking for hot dogs and popcorn!
"The Texas Rangers should be ashamed," Warden huffs on his screed-filled Web site. "This event legitimizes the perverted gay and lesbian lifestyle in the eyes of the unsuspecting innocent child."

#### Pine innings

Yes, they should behave more like the stolid role models at Mephan High School.
The entire varsity football team's season has been canceled after three boys on the Bellmore, Long Island team were accused of

Long Island team were accused of sexually assaulting junior varsity boys at a loosely supervised camp in rural Pennsylvania. About 60 varsity and junior varsity players and five coaches spent a week last month at Camp Wayne in Preston Park, Pennsylvania. During the camp, three varsity players, ages 15, 16 and 17, allegedly sodomized three junior

varsity boys with a broomstick, pine cones, and golf balls, while other players looked on.
At first, none of the victims reported the crimes, until one boy's rectum didn't stop bleeding, and he told his parents.

he told his parents.
Football coach Kevin McElroy declined to comment to media outlets. One longtime assistant coach who did not want to be identified told *New York Newsday* said he and the other coaches did bed checks up until 11:30 p.m.

during the trip.

"I'm sick over this," the assistant coach said. "The whole staff

The Mepham Pirates have gone to Camp Wayne without in-cident every summer for the past few years, school officials said. The camp rents its bunks, facilities, and fields to various high school football teams once the regular

campers leave in mid-August.

Many parents of players said they learned of the accusations only in the past day or two, and were still trying to separate fact from rumor

from rumor.

"I heard there was duct tape. I heard there were broomsticks. Duct tape is one thing ...," said one father. "The kids didn't realize just how severe some of the things they were doing were."

This is what in homophobic heterogenal tribes is called a heterogenal tribes is called as

This is what in homophobic heterosexual tribes is called a "hazing." Dozens of such sick incidents take place each year among high school and college teams and fraternities. Apparently to that father, being wrapped in duct tape is okay, and the preferred form of torture sanctioned by Homeland Security bigwig Tom Ridge.

by Homeland Security bigwig Tom Ridge.
"For their own sake, they shouldn't be playing," one parent said as Mepham students were dismissed. "Their heads aren't going to be into it. The other teams will harass them."

But the mother of a ninth-grade player said the district not

grade player said the district, not the students, is responsible for what happened during the presea-son football camp in Pennsylvania last month

'I blame the school district beand the school district because they let it happen," the parent, who did not want to be identified, told *Newsday*. "A lot of the problems they have is due to lack of supervision at the camp."

next page



Receiving end: Joe Rogan shows his best side in Men's Fitness.

ly signed is Kazuhito Tadano. Baseball being all the rage in Japan, it isn't surprising that the team known for its leering stereo-

typical Native American mascot would hire an Asian player.





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# Lawsuit

**⋖** page 2

diction to methamphetamine and major depression. He was working hard to overcome both illnesses and, at the time of his killing, trying desperately to get into a residential treatment program. Unfortunately, the wait for a bed in a treatment. iortunately, the wait for a bed in a treatment facility is unconscionably long and, in fact, before he was killed, his application for the Haight-Ashbury Clinic's city-funded dual diagnosis program was denied because his mental illness was judged to be not severe enough. That decision was a terrible mixtake. ble mistake."

Silard concluded his letter with bullet points questioning the po-lice use of deadly force and he built points questioning at a picture in the asked for answers to questions that have been unanswered as a result of police not releasing the reports on the incident.

At the time of the shooting, the officer who shot Akbar, Michael Celis, had recently returned to work after being injured in a car

accident. That accident, in June 2002, resulted in the death of Jon Cook, the first openly gay police officer killed in the line of duty. officer killed in the line of duty. Silard questioned whether Celis was put back to work on the streets too soon after the accident. The attorney preparing the lawsuit, Ben Nisenbaum, told the

lawsuit, Ben Nisenbaum, told the Bay Area Reporter that the suit will force the police, through the dis-covery process, to release the re-ports from the incident. Nisenbaum said Akbar never threatened anyone with the knives and was forced into a confrontation with police after an officer shouted and pointed a gun at him.

Nisenbaum is an attorney with John Burris's law office. Burris specializes in police brutality and specializes in poince ortularity and civil rights cases. He was one of the attorneys who won a \$10.9 million settlement against Oakland in the so-called Riders case that alleged police brutality and harassment.

Coincidentally, Nisenbaum learned after he began working on the case that he played Pop Warn-er football with Akbar in middle

school in Oakland, Nisenbaum said that although he was friends with Akbar, he didn't recognize his name because he knew him as Da-juan Lewis, his name before he became a Muslim.

The B.A.R. interviewed three witnesses to the shooting. Two strongly believed that the police acted appropriately and in self-defense. But the third witness insisted that the shooting was unwarranted and that Akbar was never a

threat to police or anyone else.

Tom Walsh, the homicide inspector investigating the case, said he couldn't comment on the suit. Walsh has said that the consensus waish has said that the consensus among witnesses is that Celis had no choice but to shoot at Akbar after he lunged at him with the knives. A spokesman for the city attorney's office said he couldn't comment because he hadn't seen any paperwork yet on the case.

Nisenbaum said that although

a dollar figure hasn't yet been named, he expects the suit will ask for damages in the range of \$10 million. ▼

# **LEGAL NOTICES**

STATEMENT FILE 0269550-00
The following person(s) are doing business as Saan Francisco Literary Tours. 2255
Leavenworth Street #10.1, San Francisco, Ga. 404, San Francisco, Ga. 407, San Francisco, G Francisco, Ca. on 08/29/2003. SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269608-00 STATEMENT FILE 0269608-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:San Francisco Center For The Book.
300 DeHaro Street, San Francisco, Ca.
94103. This business is conducted by a Non-Profit Corporation signed Kathy Barr, Executive Director. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 1, 1996. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/03/2003. Ca. on 09/03/2003. SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268999-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Ducci. 80 Canyon Drive, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a individual signed Timothy John O'Neill. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business name or names on August 07, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/07/2003. 08/07/2003. SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269542-00 STATEMENT FILE 0269542-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:Trenton & Co. 555 De Haro Street
#222, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a individual signed Mathias Trent. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 28, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/28/2003.
SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269597-00 STATEMENT FILE 0269597-00
The following person(s) are doing business as Mit Lindo Yucatan. 401 Valencia Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jorge A. Gongora. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/02/2003.

SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269593-00 STATEMENT FILE 0269593-00 The following person(s) are doing business as Emile's Towing, 2230-22nd Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Emile Ferreboeuf and Marie Laure Ferreboeuf. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 02, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 90/90/2003. on 09/02/2003. SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
TO Whom It May Concern: The Name of the
Applicant(s) is: Avila, Milton Enrique and
Duarte, Hilda Yesenia. The applicant is listed
above are applying to the Department of Alchoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry
Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca.
94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1550
Howard Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103.
Type of license Applied for:
41-0N SALE BEER AND WINE
EATING PLACE
SEPT. 11, 18, 25, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265088-00 STATEMENT FILE 0265088-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:Don Quiques Restaurant. 1550 Howard Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Milton Enrique Avil and Hilda Yesenia Duarte. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/2003.

SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269756-00 STATLEMENT IT ILE 0.26975-0.0
The following person(s) are doing business as: Homemarkit. 1326 Cabrillo Street, San Francisco, G. a-941.B. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mark Andrew Cecil. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed transact business under the above isted statement was filed with ecity and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/08/2003. 09/08/2003. SEPT. 18, 25, OCT. 2, 9, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 2.69.91-00
The following person(s) are doing business as Quarter Moon Fress. 76.0 cole Street.
#2, San Francisco, Ca. 94.17. This business is conducted by an individual signed Clinton Seiter. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictilious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 99/12/2003. and County of San Francisco, ca. 6.1 09/12/2003. SEPT. 18, 25, OCT. 2, 9, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269701-00
The following person(s) are doing busing STATEMENT FILE 0269701-00
as following person(s) are doing business as San Francisco Fish Company, 1 Ferry Building Sulte 31, San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by an individual signed Allen Kuenn. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/05/2003.
SEPT. 18, 25, OCT. 2, 9, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269485-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Selinger & Associates Appraisal. 1865
Powell Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. Powell Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Matthew Che Selinger. The regis-trant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/27/2003. SEPT. 18, 25, 007. 2, 9, 2003

SEPT. 18, 25, 0CT. 2, 9, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALLIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COLLIFORNIA IN THE COLLIFORNIA IN ADDITION OF THE COLLIFORNIA IN CASE OF THE CASE OF SEPT. 18, 25, OCT. 2, 9, 2003

SETT. 18, 25, OCT. 2, 9, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO CNC-0-5-40938

In the Matter of the Application of Steven Melbourne Tanape For change of Name. The application of Steven Melbourne Tanape For change of Name. The special county of the Steven Melbourne Tanape For change of Name having been filed in Court, and to appear information of the Name of Name o

SEPT. 18, 25, UCT. 2, 9, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269934-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:Lu's Tile & Marble Service. 2329 32nd Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual order of the state of the state

SEPT. 25, UC1. 2, 7, 16, 2003

The following person(s) are doing business as Left Coast Lifestyles, 15 Lucerne Street #9. San Francisco, Ca., and Didividual signed Marcus Alexander Loy III. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictifious business under the above listed fictifious business filed with the City and Country of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/18/2003

SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003

SEPT. 25, 0CT. 2, 9, 16, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 026994-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Golden Car. 730 Larkin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mopakun Onlayakul. The registrant(s) commenced to onlayakul. The registrant(s) commenced in Child Carlotte Commenced to the Commenced Carlotte Carl

STATEMENT FILE 0269625-00
The following person(s) are doing business STATEMENT FILE 0269625-00
The following person(s) are doing business say/ideo (IV; #3274. 1590 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed lay Jernigan-VP/Controller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 14, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/03/2003.

SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003

San Francisco, Ga. on University SEPT. 29, UCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALLIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC 03-540951 in the Matter of the Application of Minh Van Nguyen, Patrick Tuan Le, Sophia Phuong Le For change of Name. The application of Minh Van Nguyen, Patrick Tuan Le, Sophia Phuong Le For change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Minh Van Nguyen, Patrick Tuan Le, Sophia Phuong Le has filed an application proposing that hisher name be changed to Minh Tich Vu, Patrick Tuan Vu, Sohia Phuong Vu, Now that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 18th day of December at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

be granted. SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003 SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAIL IFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-540953

In the Matter of the Application of Girod Joseph Tillman, Ill, Samantha Michelle Tillman For change of Name. The application of Girod Joseph Tillman, Ill, Samantha Michelle Tillman for change of name, having been filed in Court, and It appearing from said application that Girod Joseph Tillman, Ill, Samantha Michelle Tillman has filed an application proposing that history and the same proposing that the same proposing the same proposing that the same proposing that the same proposing that the same proposi not be granted. SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003

# Hill arraignment

**⋖** page 3

discovered Hill was HIV-positive

discovered Hill was HIV-positive while the pair was on a cruise. Lister tested positive for HIV three years ago. He told the *Bay Area Reporter* last year that he has no doubt that he was infected by Hill.

Lister has waged a dogged campaign to get the San Francisco District Attorney's office to pursue criminal charges against Hill. Last spring, Lister won a \$5 million default judgment against

Hill in civil court; he has yet to

collect any money.
Also last year, Lister went public before the Health Commission in an effort to garner support. The commission took no action and no health official would comment at the time on the matter. Lister has maintained that he's

not concerned about the money, rather it's a health issue.

If Hill goes to trial, prosecutors could have a tough time winning the case. Under the law, intent must be proven, which means there would likely need to be some

collaborating evidence. According to an article in the Los Angeles Times earlier this month, at least two men infected with HIV testitwo men infected with HIV testi-fied before the grand jury about having relationships with Hill and said he repeatedly told them he did not have the virus.

After his arrest last week, Hill

was held for several days in the Nevada County Jail before arriving at the San Francisco County Jail last Sunday. He did not respond to a message from the B.A.R. seeking comment. His bail was set at \$100,000. ▼

# **New Leaf**

■ page 4

would cost \$23,445 more per year.

The union is pressing for a 9 percent raise for its 36 members which it contends the agency can afford and will help to retain staff. It also wants half of domestic partner benefits to be paid for by the agency. It says it would cost the agency another \$70,000 per year in salaries.

"We are not trying to bankrupt

"We are not trying to bankrupt New Leaf. We are just asking they make it happen," said Michelanne Baker, a queer clinician at New Leaf for three years and a union steward. "We want a balanced commitment to the agency's needs and its clients' needs and its workers' needs. We are not asking for big bucks."

Bargaining broke down in August and the two sides have not met since. Neither side has set a date to return to the negotiating

table.

"The big thing is the contract right negotiations are stalled right now," said Baker. "They are unwilling to negotiate around paid salary increases and paid medical benefits for domestic partners. They have refused to put out a last, best and final offer." On August 29, management sent the union a letter stating the agency was willing to come back to the bargaining table with some substantive changes and was ready to continue bargaining or bring in mediator to expedite the process.
"We have not heard back from

them since then. Our hope is they are going to stop delaying and come to the table so that we can move forward," said New Leaf Executive Director Joseph Neisen. "The sooner they come to the table the sooner they will get their salary increased. The increases won't begin until the contract is

Two years ago talks over the re-cently expired contract also broke down, and a mediator was brought in to broker a deal. Under that contract, the union received an 11 percent raise the first year and a 2 percent raise the second year. According to Baker, the average annual salary at New Leaf is

age annual salary at New Leaf is near \$41,000. However, the staff still receives less than workers at other non-profits in the Bay Area who average \$45,000, according to a 2003 wage and benefits survey. Management has tried to bring its salaries into the median of that survey but at the present time say the agency cannot afford it.

"In principle we agree with them in that we would love to be able to dramatically increase our able to dramatically increase our salaries and pay for more benefits. But we are a nonprofit whose budget has gotten smaller this year," said Neisen.

The agency, which has a budget of \$2.8 million, faced funding cuts this spring from the city due to the downturn in the economy.

to the downturn in the economy While at first it faced a \$300,000 cut, a lobbying effort launched by the agency cut that amount in half. To absorb the loss, it shuttered its community meeting room on Market Street and slashed hours for several manage-

slashed hours for several management positions and is not hiring for one vacancy. Managers will not receive a pay raise this year.

To further save costs, the agency is attempting to pare down the number of health plans it offers its employees. Currently, New Leaf carries nine different plans, and Neisen said he would like to phase out several of them. However, that will depend on the negotiations with the union.

"I am always optimistic because we have always been able to

cause we have always been able to successfully negotiate a contract everyone can live with. Once again this year we can do this," said Neisen. ▼

# **Sports Complex**

previous page

Several students at the school held a brief walkout in defense of

held a brief walkout in defense of the team, and, possibly, its sadistic teen sodomists.

Perhaps times have changed, but I don't recall ever being chased down with a pine cone-wielding jock in my teenage days.

While many know the differ-

ence between an amusing kinky sexual act, and the outrage of a

gang rape, conservative reactionaries at such screedfests like www.freerepublic.org are calling the assaulters "homosexual rapists."

rapists."
These boys most probably aren't homosexual. If they were, they'd know to use lubricant first, or just have sex. In a better world, teenagers would be allowed to date each other, instead of repressing their desires, and turning them into an outrageous form of violent abuse with inappropriately-shaped objects.

In consenting adult format, such kinky acts might someday have their own booth at the Folsom Street Fair, next to the PETA for Proper Punishment stand. Just kidding!!

For more of such stories, visit www.stophazing.com www.badjocks.com. ▼

Sports Complex returns to "the gay agenda of normalization" next week. In the meantime, visit www.sportscomplex.org

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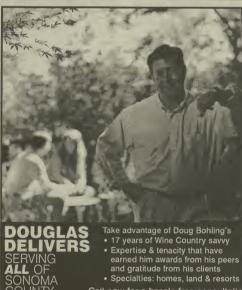
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Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board! Committee Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at \$54-5184.

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ments are subject to review and aftrimation by the Board of Supervisors in January of each odd numbered year.

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STATEMENT FILE 0269387-00 STATEMENT FILE 0269387-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:Caprock Drill Design. 2049 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Brian Keith Leadingham. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 01,2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08,022,0203. 08/22/2003. SEPT. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-CISCO FILE NO CNC-03-540917

CISCO FILE NO CNC-03-540917
In the Matter of the Application of Syuzan Igorema Volnskaya and Viktor Daniel Igorema Volnskaya and Viktor Daniel Igorewich Volynskiy For change of Name. The application of Syuzan Igorewa Volynskay for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Syuzan Igorema Volynskaya and Viktor Daniel Igorevich Volynskiy has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Susan Volinski and Daniel Vollnski. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of November at 9:00am, of said day to show cause with the application for change of name should not be granted. sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269741-00 THE MENT FILE 0269741-00 The following person(s) are doing business as:Tasty Curry. 1375-9th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed hitesham-UI-Haq. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed flictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/08/2003.

09/08/2003. SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

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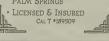
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Love and formaldehyde Matteo Garrone's 'The Embalmer' stuffs a hunk. page 32

Ellen DeGeneres, queen of daytime America's Favorite Lesbian returns to TV with solid reviews & ratings, in 'Lav Tube.'



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# ARTS& ENTERTAINM BAYAREAREPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 39 • 25 September 2003

# -raisers

Leathermen get to the bottom of things



Raise your hand if you do. But, please, not while it's in some-

body.

When it comes to fisting movies,
San Francisco — chief incubator
during the 1970s and '80s of a burgeoning international leather scene,
as well as the birthplace of *Drummer*— is the capital of the world. Their
tangled genealogy goes back to
Steven Scarborough, who showed an
advanced anal interest while making
movies for Falcon — garden-hose movies for Falcon — garden-hose enemas in every backyard on the block! Scarborough subsequently founded Hot House, where fisted puppick-poking was the plat du jour. Scarborough gave Chris Ward his start, and Ward made over a dozen features for Hot House before moving on to found Raging Stallion. As the big boy on the block, Falcon nuzzled onto the scene with its Hot Hands line, bringing in Ward as director. But after 10 features, the line has been discontinued, and picked up for distribution by Hot House. That gives Hot House the biggest That gives Hot House the biggest back-catalogue of fisting features. But during the lengthy time out Scarborough took for health rea-sons, fisting auteur Ward consoli-dated a grasp on the market predicated more on quality than quantity. Now that Hot House is back in action, we see the two companies' output as complementary; Raging Stallion's focused, highly polished, while Hot House offers a butt-buffet in rawer style.

Last year at this time, I enthused about director Ward's two-part Ass Masters. The nature of the performances he elicited, plus the music and editing: it was the fisting movie as art film. The brand-new two-part Rear End Collision is funkier, but derear Ena Coursion is funker, but de-cidedly high-end. Bigger budgets allow for more time and effort, which shows on the screen. There's an atmospheric and excellently lit set, a mechanic's garage, which en-courages a looser brand of action from a cast of tattooed, P.A.ed, and

thoroughly greased-up guys.
Welcome stars are Raging Stallion
stalwarts Michael Brandon, Simon Cox and Rik Jammer. Most specially, here's wildman Steve Cannon in his first full-on fisting scenes. Oh, he's flirted with it before. But this time, the guys are churning and plugging deep in his baby-sweet 'n' smooth ass. First one in there is welcome ass. First one in there is welcome newcomer Brock Devonshire. With his hairy chest, pair of weighty tit rings, cropped hair, and serious expression framed by a pencil-thin strap of salt 'n' pepper beard, Brock's got that Jason Branch/Colton Ford

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# Creatures from the creep lagoon

# Out of the headlines and into the movie theaters

by Roberto Friedman

ore and more these days ore and more these days we've been struck by how the world news headlines seem straight out of the local movie listings. We don't mean we're reminded of titles of classic films like The Front Page or The Right Stuff, we mean today's psychotic cinema, titles like Freddy vs. Jason or (Sharon Stone: scary!)

Cold Creek Manor.
Last week, The New York Times reported the true scale of the eco-

NOCHE

nomic fiasco the Bushies (Secnomic fiasco the **Bushies** (Secondhand Lions) have wrought. Federal budget projections have tanked, from a \$5.6 trillion surplus in Jan. '01 to a \$2.3 trillion deficit in Aug. '03 (Underworld). The \$166 billion cost of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars so far will have another \$87 billion heaped on, and all that money will have to be borrowed (Matchstick Men). Not to worry the bill for that

Not to worry, the bill for that whopping loan will come due from those suckers of "the next generation of taxpayers and the generation after that." As for those

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of us who have been paying into Social Security all these years, we're probably looking at an impoverished old age (American Splendor). The Times put it in perspective: "The longterm budget forecast has declined as much in the last two years as the total revenue collected by the US governenue collected by the US govern-ment from 1789 to 1983." But **Cheney** says the Pentagon

But Cheney says the Pentagon must have more ever more billions (Demonlover). Defense Secretary Rummy says everything's just peachy-keen over in Iraq (The Cuckoo). Condi Rice-queen deals in dodgy intelligence reports (Millennium Actress). So the enfant terrible Bush listens to the bad advice, and tries to grasp it all (Snellbound). and tries to grasp it all (Spellbound).
The **Pentagon** budget calls for

The Pentagon budget calls for billions to purchase redundant Stealth bombers, Apache choppers that didn't chop so good in Afghanistan, and fantasy missile-defense technology (Teknolust). The United Nations as a multi-lateral world body offering balance to American Development of the Pentagon Pentagon (Pentagon).

ance to American power is rou-tinely snubbed (*Lost in Translation*). Rummy won't use the word quagmire for the endless war in Iraq. Okay then, let's just say it was a Step into Liquid, and it's your call as to which

Attorney Gene Ashcroft says the civil liberties-chal-

lenged Patriot Act doesn't go far enough, and we need another one

(Jeepers Creepers 2).

The Bushie dynasty gets revved up to steal another election (Once Upon a Time in the Midlands).

Dubya (Party Monster) has his flightsuit dry-cleaned. Jeb (So (Les) readiles his thurs to threat. Close) readies his thugs to threat-en poll-workers in Florida. Poppy and Babs (Other Side of the Bed) stand by with senior advice, as the Twins party it up in Aspen (Dirty Pretty Things). If all else fails, our Presi-appointing **US Supreme Court** (*Pirates of the Caribbean*), led by no-neck reactionary Justice Antonin Scalia, will have to step in and fix the results (*The Italian* Job). This is all assuming that Dubya just doesn't bunt and declare martial law before elections can be held (S. W.A. T.)

### That's infotainment!

Yup, it's sure hard to tell the political news from the entertainment reports these days, when after all, a certain GOP android candidate conducts his entire campaign for governor on Enter-tainment Tonight and Oprah (at least now we know that "a pump is better than coming"). To illustrate this blurring of boundaries,

Arnold wants to pump.



The cast of ABC's new gay sitcom, It's All Relative, isn't very gay

can you name the celebrity or politician responsible for the fol-lowing quotable quote in last week's news?

They probably found out I was the only top in the

group."
Was it... A. Erstwhile

Queer Eye for the

Straight Guy culture
vulture Blair Boone, responding to frizzy-headed personality Howard Stern, on why he was fired, or... B. National Se-

curity advisor Condoleezza

**Rice**, to suspenders-wearing gargoyle **Larry King**, on why she was

**There** 

Of course, the answer is A., because the actual answer to B. is, "To drive newspaper name-spellcheckers stark raving bonkers.

### Ruffled feathers dept.

A close reader of the BAR Arts
& Entertainment pages took the
time one fine morning last week to
call us to complain that our use of
the word "suffragette" in "Suffragette city," the headline to our
coverage of The Mother of Us All,
the SF Opera's Susan B. Anthony
pageant (an unalloyed delight),
was sexist. Apparently the prewas sexist. Apparently the pre-ferred term is "suffragist." Our pro-foundest apologies to all the many multitudes who were offended. Now we know better. We stole the phrase, by the way, from the title of an old **David Bowie** song.

### Still Waters dept.

At last, a reason for hope: New Line Cinema/Fine Line Features Last week announced the acquisi-tion of worldwide rights to A Dirty Shame, a new film written and directed by **John Waters**. Shooting started in that hotbed of



Waters is shooting a new film.

cutting-edge cinema, Baltimore, earlier this month.

Comic wonder Tracey Ullman is to star as a blue-collar convenience store owner who suffers a concussion and experiences cara concussion and experiences car-nal lust she just cannot control. Girl, we're there. Chris Isaak, Johnny Knoxville and Selma Blair will also star in the comedy, produced by Christine Vachon and **Ted Hope**. It will be Waters' first film since his return to form in *Cecil B. Demented* (2000).

#### Meet the in-laws

We suppose there is wisdom in the title It's All Relative, but if this new sitcom premiering Wed., Oct. 1, on ABC, is the latest triumph of gay liberation in mainstream media, we somehow don't feel so witch rejust years relatively speak. victorious, even relatively speak-ing. Finally (triumphs the network's pre-publicity), a ground-breaking gay sitcom — about straight people! ("Her dads are gay, His parents are straight."
They're doing the Romeo/Juliet thing, only Juliet's parental units are queers.) Gay dads Christopher Sieber and John Benjamin Hickey are cute if acutely stereotypical as the gay dads, and their disposable incomes look to be about on a par with the **Gettys**; hammy Lenny Clarke plays the hetero dad like a radioactive Archie Bunker. We'd eat Reid Scott (fiance Bobby) with a spoon and spit out the pits, but that course is apparently reserved for erstwhile Nancy Drew Maggie

The New York Times reported last week that during the taping of the show's second episode in front of a live studio audience, "in one early scene, when the gay fathers kissed goodbye, on the lips, some in the audience groaned loudly." But that was nothing compared to the groan we let out during the Emmy Awards telecast when co-host Garry Shandling got a big wet one from Everybody Loves Raymond costar Brad Garrett. Nota bene: Everybody doesn't love Raymond.

Moz beat

The Morrissey trail never gets cold, it only grows hotter. Two unrelated articles in the October issue of rock magazine Spin referenced the Moz: a profile of Seattle punkers Pretty Girls Make Graves (the band's name is the title of an old Smiths song) wants to know "what makes them mope like Morrissey." (In a bonus namedrop, PGMG singer Andrea Zollo complains, "People say I look like [wannabe rock star] Kelly Oshourne. It's a bummer.")

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page 32 >





# **Baghdad by the Bay**

Picks from the 7th Annual Arab Film Fest

by David Lamble

from the 7th Annual Cine-mayaat Arab Film Festival, opening tonight, Sept. 25, at the Castro Theatre, and running through October 5 in various

The Bookstore (El-Kotbia) A The Bookstore (El-Kothia) A handsome stranger returns to his native Tunisia and finds work at a family-owned bookshop. Jamil finds himself the subject of gossip. Every member of the shop's family confides in him and seeks to learn his mysteries: What misfortune caused his return from France, was it a love affair gone horribly wrong? Or perhaps he's hiding a secret political life. Nawfel Saheb-Ettaba's feature is a bittersweet cinematic poem to bittersweet cinematic poem to misspent youth, long-lost love and thwarted dreams. (Opening night, Castro, 9/25)

Night of Destiny An elderly man, an Algerian Muslim living in a Paris ghetto, has a close brush

a Paris ghetto, has a close brush with death — he witnesses the assassination of a courier by two motorcycle-helmeted thugs.
Fleeing the scene, Abdelkader Silimani hides in a nearby mosque. The gunmen follow, waving their weapons at a congregation of men engaged in the evening prayer service. Terrified that the killers will come after his family, Silimani refuses to talk to a French police detective named Leclerc, who finds himself having to search not only for clues to a crime, but also tips for decoding the rituals and beliefs of a community whose members he previthe rituals and beliefs of a com-munity whose members he previ-ously hadn't paid much attention to. Aldelkrim Bahloul's film, a 1997 French/Algerian co-produc-tion, uses the genre of a crime story to probe more profound cultural mysteries. (Roxie, 9/26)

Invasion (Ejteyah) One of sevreal Palestinian-produced films, Nizar Hassan's *Invasion* provides poignantly contrasting views of the partial destruction of the Jenin refugee camp. An Israeli bulldozer driver matter-of-factly describes big ich the densitive of the his job, the demolition of struc-tures that Israeli Army authorities considered to house resistance fighters. Asked how long it would take to knock down a typical three-story building, the man replies, "About 10 minutes." The former driver adds that the demo-lition work was halted at times to allow the building's occupants to escape. His interrogator then in-forms him that some people were later pulled out of the broken



A scene from Night of Destiny: weapons waved at a congregation of men

buildings. "Really,

buildings. "Really, alive?"

A young Palestinian woman, in traditional dress, recalls her plans to marry a former neighbor, how they had picked out their house, the color of the furnicolor of the furni-ture, had even chosen names for their her favorite memo ry of her now-dead fiancé, she remem-bers him calling her "my beloved." (Roxie, 9/26)



Under the Sky of Baghdad: impressionistic

Duel in San Francisco An off-beat look at the new antiwar movement, Allyson Luchak's film, produced by French TV, docu-ments a young Palestinian-Amer-ican's campaign for a Bay Area seat in Congress. Maad Abu-Ghazalah points to the large num-ber of Arabic-surnamed men held without trial under the Patriot Act, and to what he considers an irony, that his main opponent is the only Holocaust survivor serv-ing in the US House of Represen-Duel in San Francisco An offing in the US House of Represen

Maad revisits his former home. an oceanfront trailer park; addresses 80,000 at an antiwar rally dresses 80,000 at an antiwar rally in Civic Center; tries unsuccessfully to raise campaign funds from the Arab-American community in Dearborn, Michigan; and debates Rep. Tom Lantos in a televised forum. Maad looks uncomfortable when the third man in the able when the third man in the race uses an anti-Semitic slur against Lantos. Maad attracts his own rainbow coalition of sup porters, including a young Jewish man who suggests billboards showing the candidate windsurf-ing under the slogan "extreme

politics," wordplay on extreme sports. (Roxie, 9/27)

Threads Hakim Relabbes' visually arresting feature examines the changing relations within six Moroccan families, whose lives parallel each other without ever touching. (Roxie, 9/27)

Under the Sky of Baghdad A film completed last year that contains sights, sounds and voices that have already vanished or been terribly altered, this Italian film (co-directed by Mario Balsamo and Stefano Scialotti) gives an im-pressionistic tour of a city and a people. (Roxie, 9/27; Berkeley, 10/5)

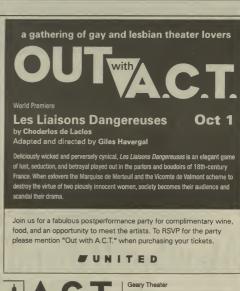
Forget Bayhdad The one-named director Samir was the child of Iraqi immigrants to Switzerland. For the four men profiled in his engaging talking-heads ballet, the Israel that has been their adult home is a kind of well-upholstered refugee camp. These men grew up fighting for their ideals, as well as their lives, in the streets of Baghdad as a double minority: Iraqi Jews who were also devoted members of the Iraqi Communist members of the Iraqi Communist Party, ironically encouraging the very Arab nationalism that would ensure their exile. A stereotype-busting two hours that reinforces the wisdom of Thomas Wolfe: You may never go home again, but home never loses its grip on you. (Berkeley, 10/5)

opens tonight at the Castro, continues at the Roxie Cinema in SF and Wheeler Auditorium on the UC Berkeley campus, and con-cludes next weekend (10/3 & 4) at the Towne Theatre in San Jose and at Wheeler.

www.aff.org







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Forget Baghdad is a stereotype-busting talking-heads documentary.

# Pint-sized taxidermist

He wants to stuff you in 'The Embalmer'

by Brandon Judell

an you reimagine Snow White and the Seven Dwarves with just one dwarf and an Italian hunk as Miss White? If so, you are now in the land of Matteo Garrone's *The* Embalmer, opening Friday in Bay

RVERSELY CINATING." SEDUCTIVE!" "THUMBS UP LUMIERE Now Playing Area theatres

This deliciously sexy, nerve-wracking Italian import chronicles the aftermath of what occurs cles the aftermath of what occurs when Peppino (Ernesto Mahieux), a 50-year-old, very short taxidermist, comes across Valerio (Valerio Foglia Manzillo), a 20-year-old chef, at the zoo.

At first, the two just talk shop.

Then things start cooking With

Then things start cooking. Within moments, Valerio gives up the kitchen for a chance to stuff cows and birds instead of grilling

Naively, the poor lad doesn't think for a moment Peppino wants anything from him but his company and slicing skills. He certainly doesn't know Peppino can't afford to pay him. In fact, his new, tiny boss is borrowing money from the mob to pay Valerio's salary and buy him pre-

But why should Valerio think anything else is expected of him? After all, isn't Peppino straight? Don't they screw prostitutes side-by-side nightly? Sly Peppino! How else will he get to see a naked Valerio in ac-

"HARROWING!"

"...TO BE IN THIS WORLD IS TO BE ALIVE."

"SENSITIVE AND ILLUMINATING."

"POWERFUL!"

( Coa Cola Manager Kenneth Cole Entertain

"★★★★...BREATHTAKING!"

"UNFORGETTABLE!" "ASTONISHING!"

tion?
But what seems comic at first But what seems comic at first quickly gets sinister when the mob requires Peppino to ply his taxidermy skills on their clients, Valerio falls in love with a woman, and Peppino suddenly wants all of Valerio for himself—

immediately.

Beautifully realized, this startlingly original caper about true love bent out of shape is just the shot in the arm your local cinema



Ernesto Mahieux meets Valerio Foglio Manzillo in The Embalmer

# How not to grow old

'Touchez pas au Grisbi' plays the Castro

by Tavo Amador

t's odd that the French, whose culture honors feminine charm and who, since the mid-17th-century, have valued the contributions women make to civilization and the arts, would also prove adept at film noir, a genre frequently featuring femme fatales or otherwise untrustwor-thy, disposable females. Jacques thy, disposable reliantes, Jacques Becker's Touchez pas au Grisbi (Don't Touch the Loot) (1954), which plays the Castro Theatre September 26-October 2, is a fascinating mix of unreliable girlfriends, male midlife crisis, bour-

friends, male midlite crisis, bour-geois sensibilities among crimi-nals, and the unexpected conse-quences of a successful heist. Jean Gabin is Max le Menteur (Max the Liar), a midle-aged hood who has just pulled off a spectacular theft of gold bullion vorth 50 million francs, enough or him and his longtime partner Riton (Rene Dary) to retire. Max is weary of the criminal life and of his chorus girl *amour* Lola (the splendidly named Dora Doll), who wants to make love after her last show, during the wee morning hours. He's too old for that and, as we learn later, prefers love in the afternoon, following a proper lunch served by his elegant mistress Betty (the striking Marilyn Buferd). Riton, however, is smit-ten with his lover, Josy (a freshfaced Jeanne Moreau).

When Max discovers Josy in

the arms of another hood, Angelo (Lino Ventura), she begs for his help in breaking off with Riton. Max cannot imagine it will matter much and is indifferent to her pleas. Later, he discovers that the indiscreet Riton has told Josy about their loot and she, in turn, has told Angelo. Angelo kidnaps Riton, holding him for ransom.



Touchez's quasi-homoerotic bonding betwen men is typical of film noir

Max, who, despite his nickname, is honorable and trustworthy, is faced with a dilemma: allow his best friend to die or give Angelo all his recently acquired loot and face the prospect of working many more years to afford his comfortable, respectable retirement. Once he makes his decision, the consequences are startling.

### Natural bonds

Gabin is superb as Max, conveying his own disbelief that his affection for the generally incompetent Riton is the cornerstone of his life. This quasi-homoerotic bond is characteristic of film noir, and the French present it as natur-al. Men sleep with women, but en-gage intellectually and emotionally with each other. As Max ponders ransoming Riton, he listens to a haunting song played on a har-monica, almost like a man won-dering what to do about his old flame. Even after making love to Betty, his thoughts return to Riton.

The beautifully attired Max looks like the embodiment of bourgeois respectability. Seen on the street, he would be taken for a successful banker ready for his pension. He longs to take it easy, to dine well, to live comfortably, to be seen in public with Betty, to enjoy the companionship of Riton and his other associates, to men-

Dary's Riton is loyal and good-hearted, if not very bright. Only a fool would confide in Josy. At his age, he should know better. Moreage, he should know better. More-au's Josy is lively and shrewd, both duplicitous and sympathetic. Her looks are all she has to deal with the harsh realities of a moll's life. Ventura is appropriately menac-ing. The rest of the large, unfamiliar cast is fine.

ar cast is fine. Becker's direction is confidently swift. He captures the Paris of neighborhoods unfamiliar to tourists, of the world of the petitibourgeois. He co-authored the script with Albert Simonin, based on the latter's best-selling novel. on the latter's best-selling novel. Their recreation of a middle-class sensibility amidst corrupt, illegal activities is superb, proving that there indeed may be honor among thieves. ▼





Patron saint of despair Morrissey

# **Out There**

◀ page 30

Then Spin writer Marc Spitz (not the one who won Olympic medals in a Speedo) flacks for his own book, *How Soon Is Never?*, a novel in the form of a thinly disguised memoir of a music journal-ist/obsessive Smiths fan trying, fruitlessly, to reunite the band. Spitz, who met three of four Smiths while researching the book, says "meeting your heroes is strange. Getting very drunk with your heroes in a dive bar on Manhattan's Lower East Side is even stranger."

We'll skip the Spitz and hold out for the new Moz hagiography by British author Mark Simpson (who was once called "a skinhead Oscar Wilde" by the Independent) ittled St. Morrissey, to be released in November in the UK, and in February in the US. Simpson promises a psychological profile of "England's patron saint of despair" whose solo career has "miraculous-ly stolen defeat from the jaws of vic-tory." We hope so, 'cause heaven knows we're miserable now.

But what's this in Spin, while

we're perusing its pages (hottie Chris Carrabba of Dashboard

page 38 ▶

# L'amour, l'amour!

# Diane Lane starts over 'Under the Tuscan Sun'

by Robert Julian

t would be completely under-standable if viewers approach Under the Tuscan Sun with a showing Diane Lane awash in the glow of an Italian sunset recall those Lifetime television ro-mances where actresses like Linda Gray and Anne Archer strut and pout their way through the ago-nies of middle-aged romance, innies of middle-aged romance, in-terrupted by commercials for Oil of Olay. But writer/director Au-drey Wells adapts Frances Mayes' novel with a sure and graceful hand, striking the perfect balance between romance and reality. It would be a disservice to the work of this talented ensemble to dis-miss. Under the Tuscan Sun as simmiss *Under the Tuscan Sun* as simply a "chick flick."

Few heterosexual romances have their origins in a lesbian bar, but our own Mecca on Market Street (or at least its exterior) is where Frances Mayes (Diane Lane) meets a couple of lesbian friends for a post-mortem of her recent divorce. Patti (Sandra Oh) is pregnant, and, since she doesn't want to fly, she offers her Italian vacation to Frances, who now lives vacation to Frances, who now lives in a furnished apartment, exploring the meaning of depression. This is how Frances Mayes becomes the *de facto* mascot of a bus full of gay and lesbian travelers, winding its way through a two-week tour of Tuscany.

Faster than you can say "syn-

whiching its way through at twoweek tour of Tuscany.

Faster than you can say "synchronicity," Frances encounters a
flashy, aging actress from Fellini
films, a handsome real estate
agent, and a small, dilapidated
Tuscan villa that she purchases on
impulse. The busload of gay travelers pulls away, and Frances begins to create a life for herself in
the Tuscan countryside. From this
point in the film, events follow a
somewhat predictable pattern that
involves remodeling the house
(with a crew of Polish laborers)
and Frances' chance encounter
with the handsome Marcello
(Raoul Bova), who whisks her
away to Positano, on the Amalfi
coast, and ravishes her in the style
to which she would like to become

coast, and ravishes her in the style to which she would like to become accustomed.

But Wells' screenplay diverges from the well-trod Lifetime path when Patti, the pregnant lesbian, shows up on Frances' doorstep, dumped and abandoned by her layer, and announces her intenlover, and announces her inten-tion to give birth in Italy. Frances does not ride off into the sunset with Marcello. Instead, she be-comes embroiled in the romance between one of her Polish laborers and a young Italian girl.

### Picture perfect

In the capable hands of cinematographer Geoffrey Simpson, Italy's visual splendor has never seemed more spectacular. Tuscany's rolling hills and picturesque towns are perfectly rendered, and I can testify from personal experience that the impossibly romantic Positano appears as spectacular on film as it is in real life. But it is the carefully modulated tone of carefully modulated tone of



the film that carries the day, buoyed by Diane Lane's restrained performance and even-handed voiceover narration. After her breakthrough role in *Unfaithful*, Lane needed the right vehicle, and Lane needed the right vehicle, and she made a good choice. Here her mature beauty and solid acting are reminiscent of the late Lee Remick, an actress who never turned in a bad performance and excelled in roles that required both sense and sensibility.

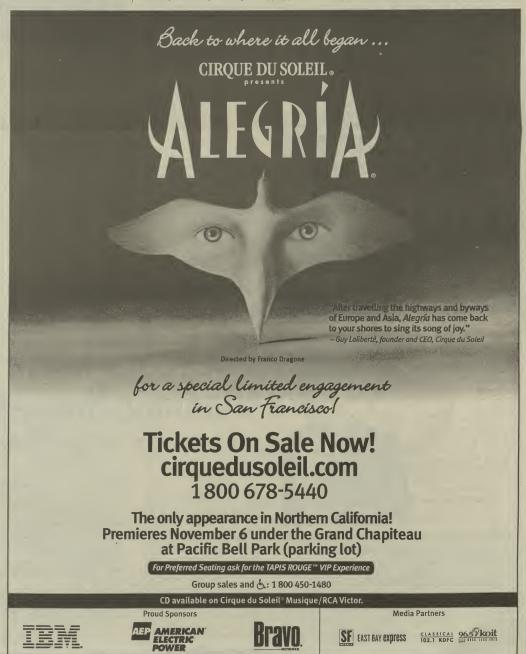
Under the Tuscan Sun manages to be romantic without being

to be romantic without being cloying; politically correct without being didactic; and intelligent without becoming stultifying. Audrey Wells' wonderful work as didrey Wells' wonderful work as director and screenwriter allows the audience the increasingly rare luxury of transportation: the act of being transported to another time, place, and sensibility. In this case, the only appropriate response is surrender.

Opens Friday.



Lane) and the jaw-droppingly handsome Italian Marcello (Raoul Bova) in Under the Tuscan Sun





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# Offbeat openers offset familiar fare

San Francisco Symphony season underway at Davies

by Philip Campbell

ome curious programming has marked the first two weeks of the new San Francisco Symphony season. Exciting star turns and dedicated playing have managed to keep results on

Putting old warhorses on the second half of the concert bill probably compensates listeners for sitting through more offbeat choices. It also insures the audience will return after intermis-

sion.

The overall impression may seem lopsided artistically, but at least there is something for every-one and obscure pieces can get a fair hearing. You never know:

4123 24th St. at Castro

some of them may become stan-

some of them may become standard repertory as well.

Last week, baritone/hunk/superstar Thomas Hampson returned to Davies Hall for an alltoo-brief performance singing two orchestral songs by Richard Strauss. Hampson is that rare article in the serious music field: a genuine artist with a naturally beautiful voice and a striking stage appearance.

If he wasn't in flawless voice, one could forgive a minor problem during the brief opening Hymnus. When his voice botrymms. When his voice bottomed out for a moment, he expressed his personal chagrin with just the slightest roll of those handsome eyes. The much longer Noturno suffered no such trouble.

The moodiness and subtle po-etry of the song benefited greatly from the singer's smooth, unsen-timental tone. With an economy of expression, he conveyed the tale of a nighttime encounter with Death. The expressionist poetry by Richard Dehmel is harrowing and the demands Strauss placed on the interpreter are real. Hampson gave a performance that was striking in its intensity and superbly musical.

The orchestral writing also requires a virtuosic contribution from the first violin — in this in-stance, Nadya Tichman. She may have been passed over for the post of Concertmaster, but even with-out the Guarnerius, she can equal Alexander Barantschik when given the opportunity. Her eerie obbligato brilliantly showed the composer's inspired ability with atmospheric orchestration.

After intermission, Music Di-rector Michael Tilson Thomas re-turned to the podium for a brisk and fitfully inspired Fifth Symphony by Beethoven. It may be the most famous and recognizable piece of classical music in the world, but that doesn't mean it isn't good to hear it live from time

Surprisingly, MTT seems to have altered his reading little over the years. When he first recorded



Baritone/hunk/superstar Thomas Hampson sang songs by Richard Strauss.

the Fifth in the early '80s with the English Chamber Orchestra, he was getting the jump on the "authentic" music movement by using reduced strings and advo-cating a lean and hard-edged sound.

Quick tempos and a refusal to overdramatize are holdovers from the conductor's youthful interpre-tation, but now he is going for the more conventional "big band" sound. Aside from a few lapses in ensemble, the orchestra responded well, and the closing pages were, as always, genuinely ecstatic.

### Varied bill

The previous week demonstrated another oddly programmed but ultimately appealing concert. Two modern works rested uneasily on the same bill with Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherezade. No annotator in the world could have made a logical connection between the selections, yet everyone left the hall with the knowledge that they had heard good music well played. To celebrate Ned Rorem's 80th

birthday (how could Rorem actu-ally be 80?), Tilson Thomas schedally be only in thomas sched-uled the composer/diarist/eternal-ly youthful wit's Sunday Morning. I was hoping the author might be in attendance, but a myriad of other celebrations must be keep-

ing him very busy.

Known more for his expressive and eloquent songs, Rorem has also written many accomplished orchestral works. Sunday Morning orchestral works. Sunday Morning is a set of eight movements inspired by the poem by Wallace Stevens. As a portrait of mid-America, it is to apple pie what the Symphonia domestica of Richard Symphonia domestica of Richard Strauss is to quiet family life, but the dissonances and moments of anxiety shouldn't be taken literal-ly. Stevens' episodes serve only as a springboard.

next page ▶



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# The remarkable **Vladimir Horowitz**

CD releases on his centennial

by Jason Serinus

his coming Wednesday, October 1, marks the centennial of the birth of pianist Vladimir Horowitz. Born in Kiev, Vladimir Gorowitz (as he was known before he Anglicized his surname) was all of nine when, as a recently enrolled student in the Kiev Conservatory, he sneaked into a sold-out recital by the great pianist Josef Hoffmann and hid in a dark corner spellbound. Almost 74 years later, after an absence of 61 years, Horowitz returned to Russia to play for an equally spell-bound audience. It was a triumphant homecoming, the cul-mination of a career that ended three years later with his sudden

Though frequently dubbed the last great exponent of the Russian tradition of romantic pianism, Horowitz himself resisted the term. In comments edited by Thomas Frost, producer of many of Horowitz's final recordings, the

pianist revealed his approach to music-making: "Classical, Romantic, Modern, Neo-Romantic! These labels may be convenient for musicologists, but they have nothing to do with composing or performing. All

page 36



Pianist for the ages Horowitz

# The outside eye

# Sonya Delwaide's past and present

by Michael Wade Simpson

onya Delwaide is an artist onya Delwaide is an artist with no choice but to be an outsider. Originally from Quebec, she had a distinguished career as a modern dancer and choreographer with leading groups in Canada and New York. Love brought her to San Francisco, where she has been presenting dance concerts and working as an independent choreographer for the last seven years. But she expected a city like San Francisco to have a more vital dance commuhave a more vital dance commu-

have a more vital dance community.

"It's kind of sad," she said in a recent interview. "People keep telling me I have to start a dance company here, but there's no funding, no space. It's better in Canada. You can live being a dancer. Here, there are all these trained dancers and no paying companies. ODC is it."

Not that she has sour grapes. "I've been very fortunate," she said. Her choreography was produced, almost immediately, upon her arrival. ""People have been receptive and open to my work."

her arrival. ""People have been receptive and open to my work."

Du Passé au Présent (From Past to Present), Delwaide's concert at ODC Theater this weekend, will offer a sort of travelogue through her career as a choreographer. She'll be performing for the last time (at 44) the 1992 dance she considers a pivotal work, Du Balcon. It's a duet with longtime partner Jadson Caldeira. Another piece is a new work set on her old piece is a new work set on her old company from Quebec, the Com-pagnie de Danse L'Astragale, which she co-founded and ran for ven years. Finally, a new piece,

Le Temps, set on five excellent local dancers, will feature an original score by New Music composer Gabriela Lena Frank, and live performance by the Del Sol quin-

Finding her own voice was partly a matter of assimilating all the influences she had in her studthe influences she had in her studies and performing career with artists like Mel Wong, Merce Cunningham, and Twyla Tharp. When she began choreographing *Balcon*, she spent a lot of time improvising, trying to figure out what was at the source of what she did, who she was what she had the see." "Must she was, what she had to say. "My vocabulary changed" during the making of the piece; it became "more me." Her work combines abstraction, theatricality and spir-

#### Spine tingling

"I believe in tension," she said, "I believe in tension," she said, commenting on her opposition to the "release" technique upon which so much of the modern dance of the late 20th century was based, a kind of loosey-goosey dancing most associated with Tricia Brown. "I like to let go and then come back to release and cia Brown. "I like to let go and then come back, to release and then hold," she said. And lately, her technique centers on the use of the spine. A movement may start from the base, the middle or the top of the spine. "I like to wave through it," she said.

The premiere, Le Temps, plays with the multiple meanings of the French word. "It means time, tempo, and weather," she said. The music, by Argentinean composer

music, by Argentinean composer Gabriela Lena Frank, contains a complex rhythmical structure and both tango and folk melodies. "The piece is quite physical," she said. "Like most of my work, it has color, it's theatrical, and not that abstract."

abstract."

Asked whether she'll consider starting a dance company any time soon, Delwaide says maybe. "If somebody with lots of money..." The truth is that having a dance company means spending most of your time raising funds. "It takes away creativity." trying to survive and feed those

This will be her farewell per-This will be her farewell performance as a dancer, but also an opportunity. "I enjoy being the outside eye," she said. "It's hard to have perspective when you're in it. There's a tendency to do stuff that feels good. You can craft better if you're not dancing."

Sonya Delwaide performs Du Passé au Présent (From Past to Present) Sept. 26-28, at ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. Tickets: (415) 863-9834, or www.odctheater.org.

BEST BROADWAY befor the foreston of the control to the control to



Sonva Delwaide and Jadson Caldeira partner in Du Passé au Présent.

# SF Symphony

The performance moved coherently through moments of drama and nostalgia under MTT's control, aided by brilliant contributions from soloists Geraldine Walther and Don Ehrlich.
Pianist Jeffrey Kahane appeared next in the jazzy Piano Concerto by Aaron Copland. No one could miss his mastery of the brief and exciting score, though he

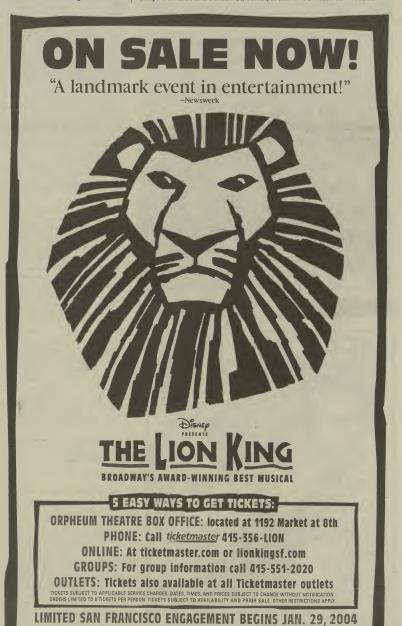
brief and exciting score, though he was all but drowned out at times by the overpowering orchestral accompaniment. He still made his mark and proved a powerful advocate for one of Copland's lesserknown works.

MTT is quite a pianist himself, however, and it might have been even more satisfying had he conducted from the piano. He should have the quirky acoustics of the Hall under control by now and, like Kahane, he knows Copland inside out.

inside out.

This week the Symphony is performing and recording Mahler's Fourth Symphony. Laura Claycomb is substituting for soprano Christine Schaffer due to a death in Ms. Schaffer's family. Claycomb made a fine impression during the recent Weimar festival and, despite the unfortunate circumstee circumstee in the support of the control of the support of the control of the support of the supp and, despite the unfortunate circumstances, should be a worthy replacement. ▼





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# Ellen rides again

by Victoria A. Brownworth

he has more lives than the he has more lives than the proverbial pussycat. Ellen DeGeneres is back and replacing Rosie O'Donnell as America's Favorite Lesbian Next Door. With her new talk show, Ellen (keeping it simple; her last two shows had the same name), airing shows had the same hame), airing midafternoon weekdays on NBC, the erstwhile DeGeneres has man-aged to do the impossible when it comes to TV. She's arisen like a ca-sually dressed Phoenix from the shes of not one but two ratings bombs to be given another shot at the brassiest of rings, and she seems to be doing a damn fine job. with solid ratings and even better



DeGeneres is newly revived.

We used to love Ellen when she was a stand-up comedian, but we never found her funny once she hit the sitcom circuit. She even bombed as a guest on Will & Grace. But now her quirky timing and humor are revived. She's made a seemingly effortless transition to daytime. Her knack for sition to daytime. Her knack for self-deprecating humor works well with her guests. And she's been given the most beautiful set on daytime (courtesy of the Fab Five?). We'd be happy to see Ellen coast from this season to the next. Would we could say the same

for another queer-friendly fa-vorite. Whoopi Goldberg's sitcom Tuesdays on NBC has Whoopi and little else. Maybe it's just that some comedians are larger than life and she is one; maybe it's that remaking Fawlty Towers in an American image just doesn't translate; maybe it's that it's a little too close to 9/11 to have a resident Arab immigrant character making terrorism jokes on a sitcom; maybe it's that with Condi Rice maybe it's that with Condi Rice and Colin Powell in DC, black Re-publicans (Whoopi's character's brother) aren't as funny as they might seem. Or maybe it's just that the show, which premiered early, just isn't very funny. No doubt NBC will give *Whoopi* lots of time to find its footing, but we don't think that's a particularly

good thing. We're also disappointed with Happy Family, which airs right after Whoopi. Christine Baranski and John Laroquette (who played the serial-murderer queer on The Practice for several seasons) are two of the most acerbically funny people anywhere. Alas, no one else in the cast of this dysfunc-

in the cast of this dysturtional family can even approach their comedic ability, so their perfect timing, deadpan delivery and brutal one-liners have nowhere to go. We ache to see this show get better, but we give it a few more weeks be-Lavender Tube

fore it's in rotation looking for a more viable ratings bumper than Whoopi. Worth one viewing just to see Baranski and Laroquette in their fab form.

#### 'Practice' shots

David Kelley's newest foray, The Brotherhood of Poland, New Hampshire (CBS, Wednesdays, airing for as long as it lasts starting next week) is such a dreadful melding of Fargo meets Picket Fences with a little Ally McBeal thrown in that we prefer to pre-tend Kelley's only TV venture at the moment is the utterly revamped *The Practice*. Returned to its pride of place, Sunday nights, it's worth revisiting. The cast has been slashed and many of the original players let go, though not the Emmy-winning Camryn Manheim (TV's only resident fat girl who isn't a caricature) and the stupendous Steve Harris (TV's only resident dark-skinned, kindof-hefty black guy who isn't a co-median or on UPN). Added to the mix this season: James Spader, who has become a kind of secondwho has become a kind of second-generation Christopher Walken and has an edgy sexiness and in-nate perversity. If you are tuned in to HBO's Carnivale and K Street Sunday nights, set the VCR for this one. Expect periodic queer

this one. Expect periodic queer storylines.
Speaking of oldies-but-goodies with queer storylines, Tuesday nights are going to be another coin toss for what to watch as ABC's longtime Emmy slugger, NYPD Blue, returns, with NBC's Law & Order: SVU vying for the ratings in the same time slot. Both shows have queer characters and shows have queer characters and storylines and a history of unsure footing with both, so they're worth keeping an eye on as they debut this week. Our money's on Blue, but that L&O franchise is

strong and competitive.
Tonight the old queer fave breaks out of the box with an hour-long premiere. Will & Grace had an uneven season last year, but looks tighter this season with Grace's marriage on the rocks (we Grace's marriage on the rocks (we have never prayed for divorce so hard). So tune in tonight for the show that put the whole queer-friendly-TV gear in motion. Then tune in next Wednesday on ABC for the premiere of It's All Relative, to compare new queer TV with old.

Speaking of old, we hate to say this, but we have finally had it with Oprah. Maybe it was opening her new sea-son by giving Arnold and Maria a full

hour to plight their troth to California,

when she's sup-posed to be a Democrat. Or posed to be a Democrat. Or maybe it's just that one can only reinvent one's self so many times on TV, and since Oprah's been doing it for more seasons than cats have lives, we think it's time for ABC to stick a fork in it. Oprah, we hate to say it, seems done. Her interview with Madonnawan't edgy or revealing, just more viewing of the Big Britney Kiss. Please. Oprah is supposed to be about more than celebrity interviews.

This is the last week for the queerest soap on TV, Port Charles, so watch and weep as ABC phases out the thrilling vampire fest. We will truly miss this guilty pleasure. But fortunately, head vampire and one of the sexiest men on daytime Michael Easton will be moving over to *One Life to Live* presently. We can't wait to see what *OLTL* has in store for him.

Speaking of the queering of TV, could those Target ads with Isaac Mizrahi's new line of clothes be gayer? We saw him debut the line last week on Today and Good line last week on Today and Good Morning America, and were once again flabbergasted by his '50s flaminess, and the ads are more gay than we are. Now, could we see Mizrahi guest on Ellen, please? Finally, though there's not much left to say about the sudden death of comedy legend John Ritter last week, we remember that his break-out role was playing gay

this break-out role was playing gay on *Three's Company* when such topics were *verboten*. We loved his stint on *Buffy*, *the Vampire Slayer* as an android (he was fabulous). as an android (he was fabulous). We liked that he took risks with his comedy. TV may be omnipresent, but TV legends are few. Ritter was one: genuinely funny and truly genuine. His final shows on ABC's 8 Simple Rules will air over the next few weeks. Stay tuned. ▼

# Horowitz

**▼** page 34

music is the expression of feelings, and feelings do not change over the centuries. Style and form change, but not the basic human

emotions...

"All my life, ever since I was a young man, I have considered music of all periods romantic. There is, of course, an objective, intellectual component to music insofar as its formal structure is concerned; but when it comes to performance, what is required is not interpretation but a process of subjective re-creation.

"The notation of a composer is mere skeleton that the per-

former must endow with flesh and blood, so that the music comes to life and speaks to an au-dience. An audience does not respond to intellectual concepts, nly to the communication of feelings.

Even during his early performing days in Russia, Horowitz's preference for the company of men was common knowledge. Yet after spending six years traveling with a male secretary about whom he said, "Well, let them talk!" he surprised all who knew him by courting Wanda Toscanini, daughter of famed conductor Arturo Toscanini. The couple's engagement lasted a little more than two months before the Jew and Catholic united in a civil ceremo-

ny in 1933. Both wore black. Despite many disagreements and battles, and much time spent apart, Wanda served as Horowitz's main support during his episodes of hypochondria, breakdown and extended self-imposed isolation. extended self-imposed isolation. As demonstrated in films made during his final years, Wanda frequently remained at his side, interjecting comments and criticism, welcome or not. Her stone-faced countenance suggests why Horowitz continually gravitated toward good-looking male students and valets, and increasingly frequented gay bars during his frequented gay bars during his final years. Wanda's final comment in Horowitz: A Reminiscence, suggesting that it was Horowitz's

next page ▶

## **Cruel intentions**

ACT's 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses' falters

by Richard Dodds

f all the great works of literature, Les Liaisons Danf all the great works of literature, Les Liaisons Danggreuses is near the top of the list of what doesn't need a new adaptation. But Giles Havergal, whose previous adaptations include Travels with My Aunt and The House of Mirth, apparently felt there was more to be wrung from Choderlos de Laclos' 18th-century novel. Who could have guessed that what was wrung would also ring?

Midway through the first act at the Geary Theater, the two main protagonists, outfitted in period finery, take a break from their quilled correspondence to ring each other up on cell phones. Of course, it gets a laugh, and one hopes that this crude anachronism is more than a cheap gag, but Havergal provides little evidence to the contrary.

Ironically, this little stunt, repeated in the second act, undercuts the central difference between this adaptation and the other recent variations on de Laclos' epistolary novel. Usually the

other recent variations on de Lac-los' epistolary novel. Usually the letters that comprise the original work are rendered on stage and in movies as dialogue, but Havergal maintains the conceit of correspondence. At least until the

phone rings.

The story that Les Liaisons
Dangereuses tells remains shocking in its depiction of cruelty as
sport more than 200 years after it
first appeared in Paris bookstores. But it's as if Havergal is afraid of the full force of this libertine tale,

the full force of this libertine tale, and he sets out to mollify it with jokes, leers, and anachronisms.

At the very start, actress Jean MacIntosh, dressed in a contemporary pants suit and sporting a terrible English accent, informs the apparently dull-witted audience that the play's letters were written "in a very different age" and warns us of how unpleasant they are. Cue the techno-pop music, which recurs with distracting regularity.

music, which recurs with distracting regularity.

At the center of the despicable
deeds that eventually ensnare even
their perpetrators are the Marquise de Merteuil and the Vicomte
de Valmont. These one-time
lovers now entertain each other
with wain-takingly detailed pair with painstakingly detailed mis-sives describing their individual efforts at hostile seduction. Cur-rently, she wants to ruin a 15-year-old virgin whose fiance she detests, while his challenge is to lure an upright married woman into



V. de Valmont (Marco Barricelli) and M. de Merteuil (Lise Bruneau)

The force of the story can still come through in this production, even when its elements and pereven when its elements and performances are working against it. Marco Barricelli plays it way too cute as Valmont, directing his smirking takes right at the audience. But Lise Bruneau generates believably dark passion as the Marquise. Elizabeth Raetz plays the teen virgin as a ditz for laughs that don't often arrive. There's ef. that don't often arrive. There's ef-fective work from Libby West as the chaste wife, but MacIntosh, still in those stylish slacks, offers a weak impersonation of her elder-

By most accounts, Havergal's

production of Travels with My production of Travels with My Aunt was an artistic success for ACT. House of Mirth, on the other hand, was a bland interpretation of Edith Wharton's social satire, but at least was material fresh to the stage. When Havergal's new adaptation of Les Liaisons Dangereuses was first announced, the word it evoked was "Why?" The results, unfortunately, have not changed that. ▼

Les Liaisons Dangereuses will run at the Geary Theater through Oct. 12. Tickets are \$15-\$68. Call 749-2288 or go to www.act-sf.org.

### Horowitz

previous page

music rather than personality that most drew her to him, speaks vol-

#### Out on disc

To celebrate Horowitz's centennial, RCA has recently released the two-disc *Horowitz Rediscov*ered, the first time that the pi-anist's entire live Carnegie Hall Recital of November 16, 1975 has Recital of November 16, 1975 has been issued in complete, unedited form. New to Horowitz's discography are two Rachmaninoff Etudes-Tableaux and the Schumann Blumenstück. The sound is not as rich as one would like, but much of the playing is extraordinate.

Horowitz Live and Unedited,

The Historic 1965 Carnegie Hall Return Concert (Sony Classical) documents Horowitz's May 9, 1965 return to the concert hall after 12 years of isolation, with many years spent entirely at home with Wanda and his Steinway. Acwith Wanda and his Steinway. Accompanying the set is a bonus 10-minute DVD of previously unreleased outtakes from the film The Last Romantic. Also due from Sony is a newly compiled threedisc set, In the Hands of the Master – Vladimir Horowitz: The Definitive Recordings, featuring stereo recordings made between 1962-'89, plus 12 other reissues.

DG has just released The Magic of Horowitz. This two-disc set of recordings from the master's final years includes Horowitz plays

years includes Horowitz plays Mozart (DVD-Video), which doc-uments the making of Horowitz's final concerto recording; music

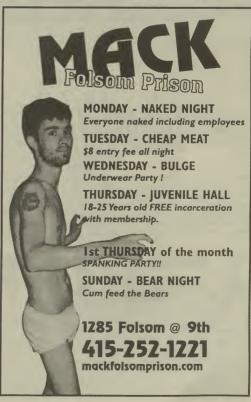
from the triumphant '86 Leningrad return concert; plus three previously unreleased per-formances, two of which are new to Horowitz's discography. Performances of such gems as Rachmaninov's Preludes in G Major and G-sharp minor are truly mag-

Each label's release includes a live version of Schumann's Träumerei. To these ears, the Carnegie '65 version is the most eloquent, with Horowitz seeming eloquent, with Horowitz seeming to ruminate over every note, frequently whispering sounds as if suspended in a dream state. To contrast this with the enlivened sparkle of Moszkowski's *Étincelles* (1975) or the soul-shaking intensity of Chopin's Scherzo No. 1 in B minor (1975) offers a stunning introducities to the maximum state of the state introduction to the man's great-









# Cello paired with gay piano

### Beyond Yo-Yo Ma with cellists Jian Wang and Steven Isserlis on disc

by Tim Pfaff

he biggest problem for most cellists today is simply co-habiting the planet with Yo-Yo Ma. Besides being one of the great musicians among us, Yo-Yo has a versatility few artists are blessed with, coupled with a questing spirit that both extends his repertoire in enormously cre-ative ways and makes his work in the standard repertoire continualthe standard repertoire continually deepen. Who needs this guy? Those of us who are not cellists.

Those of us who are not cellists. Jian Wang, who previously has done nothing but compelling work in the studio, has just released *The Baroque Album* (DG), with which he manages to prove only that his time is better spent elsewhere. Then that most puzzling of cellists. Steven Israelis zling of cellists, Steven Isserlis, plays Franck and Rachmaninov on a new Hyperion CD that shows what a stellar partnership — here

with the truly remarkable gay pi-anist Stephen Hough — can do for an uneven artist.



Jian's playing is consistently in kind of praise no musician ever wants. But this late in the performance-practice-oriented day, it's impossible to overlook his fundational control of the performance mental lack of sympathy with Baroque style (despite his obvious respect and even affection for the music he has chosen). Leading the

Camerata Salzburg from the cello, in addition to playing the solo music, also may not have been a sage idea, since there is a persistent ise that Jian's attention is divid-

The sole (but hardly negligi The sole (but nardly negligi-ble) reason for getting this CD is the famous Boccherini B-flat-Major Cello Concerto in its still-too-seldom-heard authentic version. This officially recognized correct version of the score (that is, the one Boccherini composed) is not new, but it has yet to sup-plant the old, heavily edited version that has served generations of cellists. Even devotees of the work who know only its familiar version are unlikely to recognize it until the final movement. Given that, one can be grateful for the sheer clarity of Jian's reading. While there is considerable

feeling in a transcription of one of François Couperin's many *Pièces* en concert — BAR readers may

find the "gaiement" ("gaily") mid-dle movement fetching, and the "tenderly" and "dolorously" ones that flank it are also fine — the that flank it are also fine — the music-making takes virtually no account of the major advances in our understandings of 18th-century French music. Without the citation, you might never guess that the ensuing Toccata (in another ill-advised transcription) was by Frescobaldi. Most fatally, the disc's last gasp is the Georg Matthias Monn Concerto in G Minor. Monn? Gee, minor indeed

#### Communication gap

One solution to the recording industry's all-too-real crisis might one another, at least about the timing of their releases. Hyperi-on's new Isserlis-Hough disc, in-disputably Isserlis' finest moment in the studio, appears when the cellist's career could use a boost after recent drubbings over lax live performances. Sadly, both of the major works on the CD come hard on the heels of competing, superior versions.

The Franck A-Major Sonata holds a special place in the gay musical canon as the primary work, among a number of other fine ones, that prompted Proust (who had exquisite taste in music) to create the fictional composer Vinteuil in À la recherche du temps Vinteuil in À la recherche du temps perdu. I can personally attest to the work's power on a gay sensibility. When I first heard it, as a mere thinking reed of a tortured adolescent (in its more familiar violin version, in the legendary recording with Oistrakh and Richter), I distinctly remember a bodily response to the piece as personal, intimate, and unforgettable as many another defining moment in my emergence as a gay moment in my emergence as a gay man (although Franck, unlike Proust, was himself not gay).

Isserlis and Hough give an ex-emplary reading of the cello ver-sion. It's superbly executed, deeply felt, and merely overshadowed by Yo-Yo's significantly freer and even deeper reading, reviewed here recently. Isserlis relies on heavy vibrato and other conventional means of illuminating the piece's potent emotional contents, and in its penultimate paragraphs, mars the work's long, unifying musical line with pointless rush-



ing and exaggeration.
The Rachmaninov is an even The Radinianinov is an even greater and more gratuitous loss. The pair gives a robust yet sensi-tive account of the G-Minor Cello Sonata, with Isserlis playing as well as I've ever heard him on disc. The sounds he coaxes out of his cello are intermittently otherworldly, at other times startlingly human; and the interpretation pursues an in-exorable course toward an overexorable course toward an over-whelming Allegro mosso. Still, it positively pales compared with the fire-breathing live recording (EMI; made only two months earlier) by the 22-year-old Gautier Capuçon and Lilya Zilberstein, also re-viewed here:

Isslerlis and Hough offer two succulent Rachmaninov miniatures, and two Franck songs with Rebecca Evans, in the bargain. But for people who need only one version of these works, they're too little, too late. ▼



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### **Out There**

**◄** page **32** 

Confessional's cute puppy-mug gracing its cover)? A full-page ad for Miller Lite shows a nude young man, from the back, being chased off a golf course by two clothed men. At least that's what we think is happening. But the streaker has the words "Hole In One" written on his back, with a big arrow pointing the way to his big arrow pointing the way to his derriere. Now, we know Miller Lite is a big advertiser in the gay press, but they never give us anything nearly as queer as this sexcapade!

In rival rock mag Rolling Stone Lollapalooza founder Perry Farrell wears leather pants so tight as to announce his religion. "I had [the outfit] made thicker to hide some of the details from the guys in the crowd," he tells RS. "When

in the crowd," he tells RS. "When my bulge is staring them in the face, they don't know what to do."

Perhaps they should pick up a copy of Details magazine, which one local wag has dubbed "GQ for the insecure man." All the gaying up of Details recently under new editor Daniel Peres has drawn so much attention that Peres seems. much attention that Peres seems to be walking the mag back, step by step, from the purple precipice.



Rock star Perry Farrell gets tight.

Recent issues have featured hotties Justin Timberlake and Ashton Kutcher displayed on the cover like so much Grade-A beef, but also cautionary articles on, "Is There Such a Thing As Too Gay?" "Nocturnal Admissions" (wet of), and "You're Too Old for an Earring." Poor, confused *Details*. Even complimentary subscription-holders know it's flounder-

Be who you want online..

# Dolly, Patsy and Joan

Tributes, covers, and a return to form

by Gregg Shapiro

epending on the level of epending on the level of contribution or influence that an artist has had, a tribute is often the best way to pay homage. With every passing year, tribute albums become more and more popular. Some of the best recent tribute discs include Kindred Spirite a tribute to the land. dred Spirits, a tribute to the late Johnny Cash that was released be-fore his death; and the Hetrick-Martin Institute charity album Wig in a Box: Songs from & Inspired by Hedwig and The Angry Inch. Two more various artists compilations, Just Because I'm a Woman: Songs of Dolly Parton (Sugar Hill) and Remembering Patsy Cline (MCA Nashville), also join the ranks.



Just Because I'm a Woman: Songs of Dolly Parton features a re-markable cross-section of female markable cross-section of female vocalists performing the songs of a remarkable female singer/song-writer. For anyone who ever thought that Alison Krauss sounds an awful lot like Dolly Parton, Krauss' bluesy bluegrass reading of "9 to 5" confirms that fact. On the bravest track, Melissa Etheridge (one of two out queer artists on the disc) deconstructs "I Will Always Love You." As you might expect, all Norah Jones' cover of "The Grass Is Blue" needs is Jones and her piano to get the cover of "The Grass is Blue" needs is Jones and her piano to get the point across. Shelby Lynne testifies on her reading of "The Seeker," and her sister Allison Moorer illuminates "Light of a Clear Blue Morning." Meshell Ndegeocello (the other out queer artist) finds the funk in "Two Doors Down." Parton herself performs the bonus track "Just Because I'm a Woman," summing it all up with the lines, "My mistakes are no worse than yours/Just because I'm a woman."



The ubiquitous Norah Jones also appears on Remembering Patsy Cline. Her rendition of "Why Can't He Be You" is a reminder of why Jones is considered a jazz vocalist. Unfortunately, Natalie Cole's jazz-inspired reading of "I Fall to Pieces" slows the song down to a crawl, and the impact is lost. It comes as no surprise that Amy Grant sounds so comfortable singing country swing music, much more so than pop, as she does on "Back in Baby's Arms." Diana Krall also respects the bluesy style of "Crazy," which works in both country and jazz settings, as you can hear in her

version. Young pop star Michelle Branch unveils another side to herself on her lovely take on "Strange," and k.d. lang (the out queer artist on this compilation) revisits her country tear-jerker roots on "Leavin' on your Mind." Patty Griffin is one of those singers who sounds like she was born to sing a Patsy Cline song, and she gets her chance on "Faded Love."

The longtime contributions of Joan Baez are celebrated on the four-disc set Joan Baez: The Complete Ac-M Recordings (A&M). Covering an exceptionally prolific four-year period, 1972-76, this compilation begins with Come from the Shadows, on which the outspoken political activist asked her "sisters and brothers" to "arm up with Jove and come from the up with Jove and come from the up with love and come from the shadows" in protest to the war. The album featured the Baez originals "Prison Trilogy (Billy Rose)" and "Love Song to a Stranger," and a



stunning rendition of John Lennons "imagine." Baez described the daring and extremely difficult "Where Are You Now, My Son?" as "a ballad written, spoken, and sung by myself about the 11 days of bombing I experienced in Hanoi, Vietnam," during Christmas 1972.

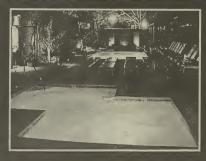
Her next album, Gracias a la Vida (Here's to Life), was a Spanish-language celebration and fitting follow-up to the war horrors of her previous album. Baez's masterwork, Diamonds & Rust, was released in '74 and nearly 30 years later retains its brilliance, from the page 46 page 46



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Betsy Salkind goes for the laffs at QComedy at The Center. See Monday

### Calendare by Mark Mardon

# Circus redux

f you didn't catch Circo Zero in its recent wonderful but far-too-short run at Yerba Buena Center during the SF International Arts snort run at teroa buena Center during the or her pestival, don't fret. Happily for everyone, the best part of the remarkable show has been recorded on CD for your listening pleasure. Plus Circo Zero will soon be coming to a street-theater festi-

sure. Plus Circo Zero will soon val in the Tenderloin.

If sexiness and virtuoso feats of dare-deviltry and amazing dexterity were all there were to Keith Hensesy's Circo Zero, the result would be a truly lovely creature, but still without a soul. Thank goodness Hennessy, being one of us, has made his quest to Oz and back, bringing with him not fantasies of babes in wonderland, but a soul-stirring message of



babes in wonderland, but a soul-stirring message of working-class struggle and the triumph of compassion in the face of unrelenting pressure from the forces of darkness. All of which is embodied in *Circo Zero* not only in the passionate performances, remarkable feats of fearlessness, and breath-taking physiques, but in the show's glorious music, assembled on the CD *Circle: The Songs of Circo Zero*, produced by Hennessy and recorded by Norman Rutherford at Ear to the Ground, featuring the astonishing, haunting vocals of Gabriel Todd and Loren Olds, who sing live at the shows.

The ten songs of Circle comprise a retro-groundbreaking array of late 19th & early 20th century African-American and Appalachian folk, spiritual, work and death songs, honoring the legacy of American roots music. Retro, because the songs revive the defiant/soulful spirit of workers in the rough-and-tumble days of the

cy of American roots music. Retro, because the songs revive the defiant/soulful spirit of workers in the rough-and-tumble days of the depression and other times and places of woe, allowing listeners to link the struggles of the past with the trials and tribulations of the present. For many of us, that old worker blues is so very "now". Groundbreaking, because the album reconstitutes old, tired ditties to great effect, allowing us to hear them anew, reconnecting with their spirit of hope and defiance.

Todd and Olds imbue their Circo Zero performances with an authenticity earned through much careful study of musical traditions; they immerse themselves in the tenor of other times, then spirit the flavor of those times directly to us. Their singing is out-of-body and otherworldly, penetrating to the heart.

So when the audience at Circo Zero gasps at the magical juggling of the beautiful Max Haverkamp, the arm balances of the mesmerizing Jade-blue Eclipse, the exquisite aerial maneuvers of Benn Mendoza, Amanda Starr, and Susan Voyticky, or the sinfully sensuous tumbling of Tyler Downing, it's expressing more than just delight with physical perfections. The people are saying hooray to the performers for having the class and guts to take part in a show with real values, that cares about the state of the world, holds compassion for its most vulnerable citizens, and knows how to get its message across with verve, vigor, and vivaciousness. ▼

Circo Zero and Wise Fool (NM) will perform an aerial circus at the "In the Streets Festival" on Saturday, October 11 (Ellis Street between Hyde and Leavenworth). Info: www.circozero.ora

### Fri 26

'Salam Shalom' @ New Conservatory Theatre Center Preview: SALAM SHALOM.a tale of passion, written by Saleem, directed by Mike Ward. This GLAAD and Harvey Fierstein Award Winning play tells the story of two men, a Palestinian and an Israeli, who fall in love. For their love to survive, they must transcend deeply ingrained cultural taboos. The play demonstrates the tenacity of rue love and explores the articulations between nationalism and homosexuality in the Arab world and Israel. \$18; Weds & previews; \$38 Gala Opening; \$25 Thurs & Sun; \$28 Fri & Sat. Previews: Sept 24-0ct 3. Gala Opening: October 4. Runs thru Oct 26. 8pm Wed-Sat; 2pm Sun. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org
'The Tender Land'

### 'The Tender Land'

'The Tender Land'

@ Diego Rivera Theatre
The City College of SF Music and Theatre
Arts Dests, present Aaron Copland's opera
The Tender Land (1954), inspired by a
book by James Agee called Let Us Now
Parise Famous Men. Directed by David
Parr; music direction by Michael Shahani.
It tells the story of Laurie, who will graduate from high school the next day, but
feels she has outgrown her hometown and
is angry that her mother and granofather
try to control her life. During a pre-graduation party she meets two drifters who
have just come to town and becomes infatuated with one of them. \$15 (\$10 studenUsenior). 8pm Sept 26, 27; 7pm Sept
28; 8pm Oct 4; 2pm Oct 5. City College,
50 Phelan Ave (at Judson Ave). Tix: 2393100.

50 Phelan Ave (at Judson Ave). Tix: 239-3100.

Dragstrip's 'Pearls Before Swine' @ Club Galia Lu Read/DragStrip and Barbie's Fetish Dreamhouse present: "Pearls Before Swine," a sinfully, sensational pre-Folsom soirce. Join MCS Selina Raven and Fudgie Frottage for an evening of twisted perversions, fetish fashions, magnificent models, kinky contests/prizes, a gorgeous gallery. Starring pre-eminent perverts: blasphemous Trauma Flinistone, the not Kosher Arty Fishal, contortionist extraordinaire Jade-blue Eclipse, Kinky Cutel, Coco Kane and more. Venus Envy and her tasty toes tantalize with a "Shrimp-O-Rama Contest." Delight to deviant burlesque songstress Kitlen on the Keys. Plus: A frisky fantasy Fashion Show from Ruby-Girl's Lingerie, Non-Stop Fetish Videos from Slave Labor Productions, Raging Stallion Studios & Reeboard, And A Hot Hog Sloppin' Pigpen Playspace. Dress code: fetish fabulous, Drag Queen/King, Pearl Necklaces, Porcine Ensembles, Excessive Accessories, (Legends Know No Code), Sponsors: Stormy Leather, Vixen Creations, Good Vibrations and Mr. S. \$10 adu; \$15 door. 9pm-2am. Cub Galia, \$2556 Mission St. (btwn 21st & 22nd, Tix: Stormy Leather, 1158 Howard. Info: 282-5378; www.kerkan.com/pearls.html; www.cubgalla.com

### MadCat Women's Film Fest

MadCat Women's Film Fest

@ ATA Gallery
MadCat Women's Film Festival presents
Program 6 — "Out of the Past," in which,
with hope and strength, filmmakers depict
characters who overcome difficult times:
Iron Mountain (Jong Lim Ro, Korea, SF
Premiere) about the lives of modern day
miners in Korea; Crying and Wanking, an
animated drama about sex, shame and
spending too much time indoors. Featuring
Frances Nikara's bold and stunning film,
Downpour Resurfacing (N. California Premiere, Filmmaker in person). Also including local filmmakers Krescent Carasso and
Sarolta Jane Cump, ST-\$20 stiding 8 pm.
Artists Television Access, 992 Valencia St.

RAAITS notlinche @ The Carates.

BAAITS potluck @ The Center Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits (BAAITS) holds its Monthly Community Potluck at the SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). 7-9pm Info: 865-5616; email bayarea2spirits@hotmail.com

#### Sonya Delwaide @ ODC Theater

@ ODC Theater

Sonya Delwaide presents Du Passé au Présent (From Past to Present), three nights of dance including "Le Temps," a quintet with music by Gabriela Lena Frank performed live by Del Sol Quarter, among others works. Featuring five Bay Area dancers and six guest dancers from Quebec. This is Ms. Delwaide's final dance performance with long-time dance partner Jadson Caldeira in her signature work, "Du Balcon." \$18 (\$16 student). 8pm (7pm Sun). 3153 17th St. Tix/nifo: 863-9834, www.odctheater.org

### Sat 27

### Gay & Lesbian Sierrans

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans

@ Russian River

Join Gay and Lesbian Sierrans (GLS) for a challenging 11-mile hike in the redwoods near the Russian river. Meet for carpools at the SF Safeway (Church & Market) at Bam, or at the trailhead at 10am. Bring water, lunch, layerd clothing, and money for gas and tolls. Only heavy rain cancels. Info: 753-1191; jburke56@earthlink.net

'Leather & Lace Square Dance' @ SF Friends Meeting House Western Star Dancers present "Leather & Lace Square Dance," with Marty Dee from L.A., caller. \$10 (88 members). 7:30-10:30pm. Friends Meeting House, 65 Ninth St. (btwn Market & Mission).

### 'Presti-Digitation'

@ ATA Gallery
Other Cinema presents "Presti-Digitation," the second in its series of experimental film/music mash-ups, anchored by the live 4-person ensemble Invisible Objects. With Laptop samplers, guitar, and closed-circuit puppet-show, these intermedia artists weave music in and out of Abo Greenwald's and Matt Day's delirious double-screen digital-video montages. Plus: lots more single-channel musical amalgams, digital collages, re-animations, etc. \$5. 8pm doors; 8:30pm showtime. 99.2 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890; www.othercinema.com

### Hyena Comedy All-Stars

Hyena Comedy All-Stars

@ Hyena Playhouse
"Laff 'till you peel' with the Hyena Comedy All-Stars in two different shows. 8pm lineup: Greg Koster, Yayne Abeda, Carol Andredesz, Sue Clark, John Risicka, & special guests, hosted by Marc Minor. 9-45pm lineup: Tony Sparks, Phil Ricafort, Eric Peterson, Jennifer Jerutis, & special guests, hosted by Roscoe Bing. Joke of the Day by Shannon Kokoska: "I had a big date, so to get ready, 1 god an issue of Cosmpolitan and read it cover to cover. But I mixed up the 15 Things You Should Say on a First Date' with the '12 Questions to Ask Your Gynecologist.' Actually, the date went really well!" 55 per show. 2390 Mission St., #304 (at 20th St., above Bikram Yoga). Infic: www.hyenacomedy.org
"SS Trannyshack' @ Pier 41

### 'SS Trannyshack' @ Pier 41

If you haven't yet cruised the Bay with a bunch of dizzy drag queens, you've been far too sober! Lighten up! Set sail on the Transyshack "Love Boat" with Heklina, Ms. Chocolate, Johnny Kat, Nikki Star, Peggy L'Eggs, Kennedy, Putanesca and many

more glamorous, jet-set, superstar drag queens, all spinning to tunes by DJ Pinky Ring. True, Heklina has her detractors — bitches aill — and Ms. Chocolate is no Her-shey's Kiss, but when you fill a boat with a couple hundred drag-damaged queens and ship them off linto the night, you get a hell of a great party! \$35 adv; \$45 night of cruise. 9pm boarding; 10pm set sail; Lam return. Pier 41, Fisherman's Wharf. Tix at Body, 4071 18th St. (at Castro). Info: www.heklina.com

'Crooked' @ Jon Sims Center \*Crooked\* @ Jon Sims Center \*\*Crooked\* & Work in Progress,\*\* a solo show of dance, drag, clowning, singing, x-rays, poetry, character dialogues, and shedding clothes. Can crooked physical, mental, sexual and gendered experience be understood in relationship? This heady tangle of desire, inheritance, embodiment, devlance, crip and trans space will make you sweat. Includes a visual art display. Seeley Quest is an Oakland singer, choreographer, stripper, clown, writer, performance artist and organizer. At Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission St. (btwn S. Van Ness & 11th St.). Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jors/imsttr.org

### **Sun 28**

#### Folsom Street Fair

Neil Lewis (11:00-01:00); DJ Rob Kaftan (01:00-03:00); DJ Jeff Johnson (03:00-06:00). Info: www.folsomstereetfair.org



Fudgie Frottage spews forth pearls of wisdom at "DragStrip: Pearls Before Swine" at Club Galia. See Friday.





Heklina and Miss Chocolate go overboard on the SS Trannyshack. See Saturday

GLS @ Bernal Heights

Join Gay & Lesbian Sierrans for a four-mile stroll through Bernal Heights. Wear com-fortable walking shoes and bring water, lay-ers and money for lunch after the walk. Meet at the corner of Coso and Coleridge at 9:45am. Info: 864-5885; lblash@yahoo.com.

Andrew Aldrich

@ A Different Light Bookstore @ A Different Light Bookstore Book reading/party with author Andrew Aldrich, promoting his new illustrated childrens book, How My Family Came to Be-Daddy, Papa and Me. Narrated from the perspective of a school-aged child, the book tells the story of how his interracial family was created through adoption. It is a realistic and playful portrayal of the process his two dads went through in preparation for their new son. Co-sponsored by Our Family Coalition (Bay-Area LGBT family group) and COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere). Free. 10:30am. 489 Castro St.

### 'Bring the Troops Home Now'

Bring the Troops Home Now'

@ Dolores Park
Noontime rally: "Bring the Troops Home
Now," a gathering and demonstration at
Dolores Park. The Queers for Peace and
Justice contingent will meet at 11:30am on
the steps at 19th & Dolores; look for the
new hanner in English and Spanish. Bring
supans, including signs in support of Stephen
Funk: "PREE FUNK!" Everyone will be
marching to Civic Center. Info: internationalanswer.org

'How Berkeley Can You Be?'

"How Berkeley Can You Be?"

The 8th annual "How Berkeley Can You Be?" parada and festival kicks off with a grand parade at 11am (from California St. & University Ave.), with some 75 groups participating, including more than 80 art cars. Dance, comedy, tragedy, costumes, puppets, floats, magic and more. The parade winds to Civic Center Park (Center & MLK, 2 Diks west of Berkeley BART station) where the festival continues from 12:30-5:30pm, featuring two lively staged packed with great entertainment. Presented by Tthe University Ave. Association and Epic Arts in conjunction with the City of Berkeley and various Berkeley enterprises. Info: 510-849-4688; www.howberkeley-canyoube.com

Trash\* @ The Powerhouse

DJ Bus Station John & Alcoholics Unanimous celebrate two years of "Trash" with a very special post-folsom Fair anniversary bash, featuring an 8-hour retro-homo super-set of 70s & 80s gay bar & bathhouse classics. Hi-NRG, Eurodisco, electrofunk, sleaze & more. No cover. 6pm-2am. 1347 Folsom (btvn 9th & 10th), Info: www.powerhouse-sf.com

### Mon 29

'Arts Forum 2003' @ The Green Room

@ The Green Room
Intersection for the Arts and Theatre Bay
Area host 'NAT's Forum 2003," with SF
mayoral candidates Angela Alioto, Tom
Ammiano, Matt Gonzalez, Susan Leal,
Gavin Newsom, and Tony Ribera each given
an opportunity to share their views on the
arts as a critical component of a vibrant
and thriving community, Hosted/co-moderated by Dave Eggers (author, Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius), Brad Erickson (Executive Director, Theater Bay
Area), and Deborah Cullinan (ED, Intersection for the Arts). Free, 5-6:30pm. War
Memorial Performing Arts Center, 401 Van

Ness Ave. (at McAllister). Reservations (recommended): 430-1140, x40. Info: www.theintersection.org

QComedy @ The Center

QComedy presents "Monday Night Gay Comedy" hosted by Bob Smith, author of Openly Bob, winner of the 1998 Lambda Literary Award, and Way To Go Smith. He Literary Awaro, and way 10 to 8 mint. He is the first openly gay comedian to appear on The Tonight Show and to star in his own HBO special. Smith has written for The Advocate, OUT, and the LA Times Magazine, as well as for numerous TV shows, including the MTV Vifedo Awards. Also appearing: Adam Sandel, Lisa Geduldig, Angie Krass, Charlie Ballard. Steve Haslev, and Bridget. Adam Sandel, Lisa Geduldig, Angie Krass, Charlie Ballard, Steve Hasley, and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 7:30pm reception; 8pm show. LGBT Com-munity Center, 1800 Market St. (at Oc-tavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; QComedy.com

tavia). Tix/info; 865-5633; QComedy.com
SF Contemporary Music Players
Q Yerha Buena Center (YBCA)
San Francisco Contemporary Music Players
present Kurt Röhde's Double Trouble
(2002), P.O. Phan's clarinet quartet Beyond the Mountains (1995), and the world
premiler of Illuminations (1998), an elegiac group of songs penned by Earl Kim
under commission for the ensemble in the
final weeks of his Ille; and another commissioned world priemere, David Soley's "..."
(2003). Featured players: Ellen Ruth Rose
and Kurt Röhde, viola, and Karen Slack,
soprano. \$22 (S18 studentyseino). Bom
(pre-concert talk 7:15pm), 701 Mission St.
Tix/info: Y78-ARTS (2787)

BAAITS Potluck @ The Center Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits (BAAITS) hold their Monthly Community Potluck (last Friday of every month). 7-9m. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: 865-5616; bayarea2spir-

Theatre of Yugen @ Noh Space
Theatre of Yugen's monthly performance
series features "New Soloo Work" by veteran artists Sachiko Nakamura, Hiroko
Tamano and Winston Tong. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St. (at Florida).
Tix/info: 621-7978; theatreofyugen.org

### **Tue 30**

"Wiva Variety 34"

@ Buriel Clay Theatre

"Make It So' Productions presents "Viva Variety 34," hosted by Steve Murray, a benefit for Aguilas. Starring Kristi Martel (singer/songwriter), Rusty Hips (performance art), Ray Ferrer (comedian), Connie Champagne (chantreuse), Betsy Salkind (comedy), Skibber's Wonderment (bird magic), Velocity Circus' Diva (physical circus), Ron Coulter & Star (ventriloquist), Fat Chance Belly Dance (dance) and Meliza Banales (spoken word), \$15 ady, \$18 door.

Bym. 762 Fulton (at Webster), Tix/info: 863-0741, ext 2; makeitsporeductions.org

MadCat Women's Film Fest

@ El Rio

"MadCat Women's Film Festival," Program 7- "Clear Visions, Silent Filmmakers." Live music by the Secrets of Family Happiness. Women had a powerful role in silent film era and MadCat celebrates these filmmakers with two programs of short films from the first half of the 1900s. Featuring At Land and Ritual in Transfigured Time by Maya Deren. Also films by Alice Guy-Blache and Lois Weber. \$₹-\$20 slidings. BBQ at 6-30, film at 8:30pm. El Rio, 3158 Mission

### Wed

Health Initiative for Youth @ Columbia Park Boys & Girls Club

Boys & Girls Club
Health Intitiatives for Youth (HIFY) initiates its Fall 2003 Provider Trainings beginning with "Health and Youth Development," a required prerequisite for later trainings in "Positive Sexuality & Youth" and "Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Questioning (LGBTQIQ) Youth," and "Substance Use & Youth" This half-day training introduces HIFY's perspective on youth and health, exploring youth development theory, the values underlying HIFY's work with youth, and how to apply an asset-based approach to youth health issues, 9am-3pm. Also on Oct 7. \$25, 450 Guerrero St. Info: 274-1970, ext. 20; hify-org

### Thu

MadCat Women's Film Fest

@ YBCA
MadCat Women's Film Festival and SF
Clinematheque present Leche, a portrait of
life on a dairy ranch in Mexico, plus the
premiere of its follow-up, Mafa Leche, following members of the same family who
have emigrated to California. The two films
cross borders, cultures and generations.
Also screening: removed and Hand Eye Coordination. \$7.7.30pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Tix/info:
436-9523; www.madcatfilmfestival.org

Sara Shelton Mann's
Contraband @ YBCA
Yerba Buena Center the Arts presents
ward-winning thoreographer and Wattis
Artist-in-Residence Sara Shelton Mann and
her legendary ensemble, Contraband, in the
premiere of Monk., a multimedia work documenting the personal within the collective,
set to music by Norman Rutherford and
Peter Whitehead, featuring seven of 5F's
finest dancers. Monk tells the story of one
person's journey lived through different
bodies, memories and experiences. \$20 &
\$25 (\$16 & \$318 senior/Student). 8pm (7pm
Sun). Thru Oct. 5. Tik/nfo: 978-ARTS
(2787) www. YerbaBuenaArts.org

'SMEGMA' @ Eros

"SMEGMA" @ Eros
Kirk Read hosts "SMEGMA," a pansexual
invocation of old school bathhouse entertainment, featuring Harvey, Tara Jepsen,
Beth Lisick, Mattuen Roth, horehound stillpoint, and Mark Weigle. All genders welcome, onstage and in the crowd. \$5-10
sliding (NOTAFLOF). Doors open 7:45pm,
show at 8pm. Club Eros, 2051 Market
Street (at Church, across from Safeway).

### WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon Out & About Bay Area Reporter 395 Ninth Street San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.









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under of Leather Walk) and Mama Reinhardt present a check for Tony Koester (left), Art Tomaszewski (for \$20,000 to Mike Smith (right) of the AIDS Emergency Fund. The funds represent the donations and pledges from Leather Walk 2003, and will benefit both the AEF and the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund.

### **Mister Marcus**

■ page 1

The weather has been hot, hot, The weather has been hot, hot, hot, so make sure you take the necessary precautions to make it through the heat wave. And remember to be at the 12th Street stage at 1:15 p.m. on Sunday, September 28 when current leather title holders from around the world will hap recently by IMI. world will be presented by IML John Pendal and Ms. World Leather Goddess Lakshi-You'll love them

Immediately follow-ing the introductions, Folsom Street Events will take the stage to cele-brate the 20th birthday of Folsom Street Fair

with the singing of the Happy Birthday song, a cake for the occasion, and other "surpris-

the occasion, and other surprises." Oh, what a great feeling!
The fair itself runs from 11
a.m. until 6 p.m. this Sunday, on
Folsom Street between 7th and
12th streets.

#### Leather Walk raises \$20.000+

The thermometer was hover The thermometer was hovering above 90 degrees last Sunday, September 21 in San Francisco when several hundred people plunked down cash and pledges for the Leather Walk from Daddy's in the Castro to SOMA locations, ending up at the Eagle. As it happened, I landed at SFO from Kansas City at five minutes to 1 p.m., so am sorry I missed the walk – for the first time! - for the first time!

walk – for the first time!

When the marchers arrived at the last stop (Eagle Tavern), a crowd was already there to hear the announcement that a grand total of \$20,000 was raised, with accolades handed out to everyone involved – all to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt was beaming with pride at what her family of boys and girls and their friends had done. Indeed Leather Pride Week 2003 in San Francisco got off to an auspicious start and the partying and fundraising is still going on.

Lenny Broberg managed to

going on.
Lenny Broberg managed to squeeze some \$7,000 out of the wall-to-wall crowd at the Eagle when the Bare Chest Calendar men were auctioned off for dinner dates. Each had created a dream basket full of dinners, gym memberships, "sexual accouterments," and other goodies. The crowd ate up the raunchy dialogue and lavished credit cards, checks, and

cold hard cash to have a tete-a-tete

with the men of the calendar.
Mr. August 2004 George Delmar hauled in the most cash, with mar hauled in the most cash, with over \$1,000 bid on his body and his basket of goodies. It was a bas-ket with a theme: a small tree painted black with seven en-velopes dangling from the branches, each labeled the seven

deadly sins and each containing lavish dinners, wines, porn videos and a plethora of pleasurable items.

The crowd was in stitches when Mr. June 2004 Tony Wakin was auctioned off with his

auctioned off with his studly, compact body that had them swooning. It was a deliciously raunchy afternoon with a lot of laughs and much-needed funds raised for the AIDS Emergency Fund and Positive Resources. Great job all around! Leather

#### Kansas City happening

Big crowds gathered at Kansas City's leather bastion known as City's leather bastion known as the Dixie Belle Complex, a three-store pleasure house with food, dancing and a leather bar supported by leather mavens who turned out in force for the Mr. Dixie Belle Leather contest and the Heart of America Leather Boy. The mister advances to compete at IML 2004 and the boy advances to compete for American Leather Boy 2004. Sixteen judges, eight for each title, grilled the one boy who competed for the title and again, he had to achieve a certain perhe had to achieve a certain per-centage of the available points to get the sash. As it turned out, boy Tim Weaver made the grade at the contest on Friday night and was

fore Mr. Dixie Belle Leather was

named.

It was fun judging the Mister contest. Three men (Todd Altheiser, Robin Bailey and George Wagner) faced judges Mark Bozif, Shane Linden, Bill Mitchell, IMsL Shane Linden, Bill Mitchell, IMsl. Tammie Nelson, IML John Pendal, Bill Snook and Alvin York in the usual categories. Richie Johnson opened both contests singing a stirring version of the National Anthem and "Fat Boy: Chuck Brackett and Ron Megee as the master of ceremonies kept both shows running on time. The sten Brackett and Ron Megee as the master of ceremonies kept both shows running on time. The step aside speeches of both Chuck Brackett and Zack Marquandt were short, incisive, inspirational and thankful to all that supported their title year(s). IML John Pendal and IMs.L. Tammie Nelson both spoke eloquently, as did American Leather Man Bill Mitchell and American Leather Woman Sheryl Dee. The enthusiastic crowd was impressed with the international panel of "celebrity" judges and Kansas City leather people were friendly, helpful and extremely accommodating.

The moment of truth arrived on Saturday night when Todd Alhiser was named Mr. Dixie Belle Leather. The first runner-up was Robin Bailey, and the second runner-up was Michael Wagner. Todd will compete at IML 2004 next May.

Special thanks to Mike Siemer and Jim Rodeweld for their eloquent hospitality and site of the Meet & Greet. All the volunteers did their jobs well and the whole weekend was a huge success. If you ever find yourself in Kansas City, skip 12th Street and Vine...it's the Dixie Belle Complex at 1915 Main Street. You will not be disappointed! V



Mr. Dixie Belle Leather is Todd Althiser (left), here seen with Robin Bailey (center), the 1st runner-up, and Michael Wagner, the 2nd runner-up. They competed at the Dixie Belle in Kansas City, Missouri, last Saturday, September 20. Althiser advances to compete at IML in 2004.

### **Rump-raisers**

✓ Arts cover

thing going on that screams (quietly), "Stud!"

### Ballroom with a view

An amazing ensemble, these guys rotate through the scenes, taking top and bottom positions with consummate skill and conwith consummate skill and constant passion. Forget aggression; this is more like ballroom dancing: real partnering. But like the garage setting, the fisting is industrial grade, full throttle. Brock has a heavenly solo with a 14-inch monster dildo that splits his hairy crack all the way down to its base of rubber balls. And he's so receptive to Jammer's fist, stretching of rubber balls. And he's so receptive to Jammer's fist, stretching and preening upon it, while leaning forward to kiss Jammer. Then, for a kinky fillip, Brock's butt inhales some chrome bocce balls the size of oranges. They hit the floor with a heavy thud when they pop out. And Part Two has a startling surprise: Twink Fist. Mark Sterling is ordinary, but he's young, with a kid's small, smooth balls and velvety asshole. This may be the screen's first chicken-fisting.

Throughout the movie, you'll admire the framing, the perfect point of view, the security of David Hempling's videography and the restraint of Ward's editing, which provides an enjoyable

and the restraint of Ward's editing, which provides an enjoyable constancy of view. JD Slater's music is without equal. Presented in the striking high-resolution image that Raging Stallion is humorously calling Fist-A-Vision!, Rear End Collision is a first-class fistery.

Meanwhile, over at Hot House, there's a brand-new director with a stupid nom de porn producing a completely different sort of movie. Wolfgang Bang's two
Handpacked
and Manmovies Karrnal Knowledge

packed, are billed as amateur

porn. I'm told his previous work was with a bareback outfit, and was with a bareback outht, and these movies have that one-off, clandestine feeling. As well as low-tech: color variation between cameras, grain, harsh lights, jiggling videography. Well, the action's raw, so why shouldn't the production match?

### **Doubled** over

Handpacked is all about aggression and velocity. It has the breathless impetuosity of Run, Lola, Run, a similarity pointed up by the copycat (though effective) music. The opening scene features a potent and very believably



Wildman Steve Cannon appears in his first full-on fisting scenes: Yowza!

staged rape of handsome blond
Ross Vincent (he's reminiscent of
Michael Braun) by gruff Stefan
Manacaldo and leatherman
Ruben D'Angelo, a
handsome, hung, allaround top-and-bottom stud. They badly
abuse Ross' milkywhite ass with toys
and double fists. In
the second scene. second scene, Ruben re-

ceives a hot fuck and even

from horse-hung Tony Serrano on a sunny rooftop deck in midtown New York City. It's a milder inter-lude, preceding an extended finale of BD & SM mayhem. In a playroom, Ruben and dogboy Paul ride some wickedly massive dildos before a dominator daddy and his before a dominator daddy and his slave arrive. Then everybody re-ceives extreme fisting punish-ment. When I say it's nasty, I don't mean that in a nice way. The unique fourway fisting finale finds Ruben's fists in two bottoms, while Dad's arm is buried in

Manpacked is not quite as ruthless, its generous playing time

depicting smoother though no less piggish sexuality. The cast is big guns: Carlo Cox, grizzled daddy Mark Reed, Steven Richards, and that fascinating sex-pig, Bud. With dildo and fist, Carlo Cox works him over slow and thorough, and the camera gloats on big Bud's massive thighs and torso, as he moans in ecstasy. We visit a leather shop, where Joe Serrano tries on a jockstrap and the clerk's fist, and then we're off to the lector recomp where Bud to the locker room, where Bud and Mark play with toys before David Verando (the twink known as Mark Sterling over at Raging Stallion) slips his little mitts into both their bums. Then, after inboth their bums. Then, after in-cendiary rimming, another guy drinks gallons of enema water out of Bud's big ass. Finally, in a tacky playroom, Carlo and Doug Jeffries do double-duty on Armin Rush, all three clad in fetish rubberwear. The violent nature of *Handpacked* will attract some; others will pre-fer the exercisive but not abusive fer the excessive but not abusive kink of *Manpacked*. ▼

www.RagingStallion.com; (877) 327-0707 www.HotHouse.com; (415) 864-8910

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### EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, September 25

Meet IML John Pendal tonight (2000 to 2300) at Daddy's Bar when Mike Dumont presents a party with a beer soda bust, auction, photos signed by IML John Pendal, entertainment and all to bene Magnet Health Services.

### Friday, September 26

Meet and Greet the five men competing for Mr. SF Leather 2004 and the judges for the contest at the Powerhouse at 2000. The bare chest calendar men take over after that.

take over after that.
California B&B Corps annual uniform dinner with a \$69 price tag tonight with tickets available at Stompers Boots or surf www.bbcorps.org.
The leather daddies of San Francisco host their annual art auction at the Eagle from 2000-2300
—always great opportunity to get some great art just in time for Christmas gift giving.
Exiles of SF 7th annual meet & greet for women at Studio Z (31.4 — 11th St) with art on display thru October 2nd
In San Jose, the "Fringe" event is taking place with workshops and other esoterica, but no details

#### Saturday, September 27

Mr. San Francisco Leather 2004 contest at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. Doors open at 1830. At this point in time, tables are sold out but SRO tickets are available at the door.

The 15 Association monthly play party tonight at the usual location, with a \$15 donation. For inf call 415-673-0452. Your guest must accompany

you.

Boot Party at the Eagle Tavern from 1500-1800. No entertainment, raffle, or auction—just quality boot time with men of the same persuasion, and a bootblack.

#### Sunday, September 28

Note that the world's biggest leather event from Noon to 1900, on Folsom from 7th to 11th Street. Thousands will be there to savor the flavor that is San Francisco. It will be hot, so be prepared. Have fun and welcome our visitors. This is your chance to prove that San Francisco is "the city that knows how!"

# Comparing great Ice Princesses on disc

A sampling of Puccini's 'Turandot' on CD, DVD and VHS

by Jason Serinus

ver since Arturo Toscanini conducted the 1926 debut of Giacomo Puccini's unfinished final opera, Turandot, the work has become synonymous with everything grand about Grand Opera. A successful production demands mammoth forces: elaborate sets, huge voices capable of cutting through the elaborate orchestration, and a large orchestra and chorus led by a conductor capable of propelling the drama. Indeed, major opera companies seem determined to outdo each other in the scope of their productions, enlisting the finest directors and designers to bring the quasi-Oriental spectacle

The success of a production hinges in large part on the artistry of the two principals, the Ice Princess Turandot and her suitor, Prince Calaf. While both roles demand a forte high C, Turandot must initially appear imperious, vengeful, and out for blood, later transforming into a human with a heart, while Calaf must express headstrong confidence, ardor, and consummate passion throughout. Turandot's final transformation from frigid princess to conquered virgin is especially difficult to pull

off; most sopranos who can muster the cutting force to convincingly belt out her chilling "In questa reggia" have a hard time sounding meltingly sweet in the final act.

A number of great studio recordings of the work have been transferred to CD. These include two assays by the great Birgit Nilsson, one from 1959 in RCA Living Stereo with the unbeatable team of Bjorling, Tebaldi, and Tozzi, the other from the '60s on EMI with Corelli, Scotto, and Mercuriali. The RCA set conducted by Leinsdorf boasts the best sound, plus a grandeur that has converted many a music-lover to opera queen, but EMI's Molinari-Pradelli takes far greater advantage of the score's opportunities. Also essential is the famed Sutherland, Pavarotti, Caballé, Ghiaurov recording on Decca conducted by Mehta, and any LP or CD transfer you can lay your hands on of Dame Eva Turner's 1928 commercial recording of "In questa reggia" or 1937 Covent Garden performance, with Martinelli and Albanese conducted by Barbirolli. Other must-hears are recordings of Liu's arias made in 1927 by the originator of the role, Maria Zamboni, and John Gutman's interview with the original Turandot, Rosa Raisa, in which she interrupts the conversation to say

that maestro Puccini himself pronounced the opera as "Tou-rhando" rather than "Tou-rhan-dot."

#### Heard live

A recently released, previously unpublished live 1965 audio performance of *Irundot* (Birgit Nilsson, Montserrat Caballé, Chorus and Orchestra of the Colon Theatre, F. Previtali cond.) must be heard. The performance features Nilsson in her prime and Caballé captured less than six months after her show-stopping, last-minute New York City debut in Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*. The rest of the principals are not in the same league, but so what.



Nilsson was perhaps the finest and most ubiquitous Ice Princess of the last 50 years, with the cutting tone, steadiness, and blazing high C that are essential for the role. You may have a hard time convincing yourself that she warms to produce the requisite melting, sensual tone in the final scene, or that this performance differs significantly from her other recorded Turandots; regardless, the chilling impact of her "In questa reggia" remains unquestionable.

Caballé delivers a performance.

Caballé delivers a performance of unparalleled intensity and vocal beauty. Eschewing her tendency to float exquisite pianissimi at every opportunity, she sings most of her opening aria, "Signore, ascolta," forte. There is a surprising albeit idiomatic gasp at one point. Then, as she approaches her final high note, Caballé softens the voice to produce an extended thread of fabled floated tone. Her impeccably focused pianissimi is extraordinary, seeming to rise from the deepest center of her being. Without missing a beat, she floats up to the final high note, flawlessly swells to double forte, and holds onto the note for what

seems like a millennium before releasing it with a cry so desperate and startling as to transform any self-respecting opera queen into a screaming lunatic. This is a performance to die for.

#### Top honors

Because it is such a spectacle, *Turandot* benefits greatly from the DVD treatment. Although DVD sound can never approach the sonic supremacy of the RCA and Decca studio recordings, surround sound, stunning visuals and subtitles go a long way to compensate.



The absolute winner is the 1987 Met production from DG (Marton, Domingo, Mitchell, Plishka, Cuenod, The Metropolitan Opera Chorus, Levine cond., Zeffirelli dir.; DVD). Eva Marton's prime was shorter than one would have hoped, but she is captured, here with her resources mostly intact. Besides a few squally notes and an occasional moment when the vibrato spreads, hers is a magnificently sung Turandot. The woice is unyielding in its cutting power, yet convincingly tender at the opera's conclusion. Her acting, too, is quite good, with stylized, pseudo-Oriental gestures and icy stares betraying no other emotion until the final scene. There, small changes in facial expression show her variously defiant, fearful, cunning, and captured.

ning, and captured.

Domingo is a marvel. Save for two small imperfections, a crack on his high C with Marton, and a rather steely high B in "Nessun dorma," his singing is all one could wish for. Not only is the basic tone glorious and filled with ardor, but he employs a wealth of shading, including a honeyed piano ritard in the middle of "Nessun dorma" during which the camera spies him smiling in satisfaction. The man's voice has lasted so long because he so loves the act of singing. It's a wonderful performance, complemented by sufficiently strong stances and arm gestures to prove convincing.

With much too little of Leona

With much too little of Leona Mitchell available on disc, her achievement as Liu deserves special praise. The voice is as beautiful and sincere as her facial expressions, the pathos of her character heightened by consummate vocal shading. Mitchell's interpretation seems reminiscent of Golden Age singing in that she strings out notes and phrases for effect, producing heart-tugging, melting pianissimi on her high notes. Although she ultimately cannot achieve 100% of her vocal intentions, the intent itself is so strong that the performance is a triumph. Mitchell's love confession in the final scene, the suddenness of her suicide, and her devotion to Paul Plishka's well-sung Timur are

all equally memorable.

Levine is always supportive of his singers. No artist attempting what Mitchell accomplishes sings the same way each time, but Levine is always right with her, drawing out phrases with a complementary level of concentration and focus. Grand passages have ideal weight, dimaxes are truly climactic, colors are extraordinary. Note, for example, that when the audience interrupts the orchestral conclusion of "Nessun dorma" with pronounced applause, Levine, rather than hurrying the accompaniment along in workaday fashion, makes it even more dramatic, sounding each chord as if it were an essential part of the score

of the score.

Finally, there is the production itself. Zeffirelli has been creating opulent settings since the days of Callas, and his mastery is apparent in every scene. The sets are gorgeous, Gil Wechsler's lighting ideal, the costumes by Dada Saligeri and Anna Anni superb. The Met TV forces do a great job of capturing Zeffirelli's intoxicating opulence, using angled photography to heighten the contrasts between verticals and diagonals. This DVD is arresting from start to finish.

to nnisn

#### Stardate log

A competing video of *Turandot* (Schnaut, Botha, Gallardo-Domas, Burchulade, Tear, Vienna State Opera Chorus, Tolz Boys Chorus, Vienna Philharmonic, Gergiev cond., Pountney dir., Salzburg; DVD) is a different animal entirely. Rather than a period setting, director David Pountney and costume designer Marie-Jeanne Lecca attempt to illustrate the fear of technological control and annihilation endemic to the '20s and '30s by creating a *Star Trek*-influenced, compartmentalized industrial state in which Ping, Pang and Pong mechanically go about their business in Borg-like fashion. It is far more square than Zeffirelli's conception, which is precisely the point.



In Act II, Turandot appears elevated to enormous height, shrouded in a robe perhaps 30 feet long. When Calaf solves her riddles, however, she lowers to stage level, sheds her robe, and becomes human in height.

dles, however, she lowers to stage level, sheds her robe, and becomes human in height.

I would have been far more involved if the sound had been less dry and Gabrielle Schnaut hadn't squealed, wobbled, shrieked, and approximately pitched her way through "In questa reggia." Johan Botha has a sweet voice, but he is neither a virile Calaf, pleasing to look at, nor convincing as an actor. Christina Gallardo-Domas, however, presents a most moving and

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# Taming the raging bulls

### Film critic Robin Wood's Hollywood

by David Lamble

eventy-three-year-old Cana-dian, Marxist, feminist film critic Robin Wood's Holly-wood from Vietnam to Reagan and Beyond (Columbia University Press, \$19.50) is actually a revised Press, \$19.50) is actually a revised and expanded new edition of a work Wood completed in 1986, a time when any theory owing a debt to Marx probably meant Groucho, Chico or Harpo.

Groucho, Chico or Harpo.

My litmus test for a good critic is whether they can entertain and inform me even though attacking one of my own sacred cows. Pauline Kael dismissed one of my now-guilty pleasures, Ordinary People, as "an academic exercise in catharsis." Wood is equally is in catharsis." Wood is equally contemptuous of Robert Redford's directing debut, but he's even more dismissive of the "bourgeois elitism" of Kael. In a chapter entitled "Spielberg's Children," Wood manages to skewer both director and critic/fan. "Spielberg's identification with Elliott makes possible the precise nature of the fantasy E.T. It is essentially a male fantasy: apart from Pauline Kael (whose feminist consciousness is so undeveloped one could barely describe it as embryonic), I know of no as embryonic), I know of no women who respond to the film the way so many men do — as, in Kael's term, a 'bliss-out.'" If Wood's opinions bite, it's be-

acquire them. He describes his awakening political consciousness while writing for *The Body Politic*, for two decades Canada's left-

wing journal of gay liberation, as "the period of my growing politicization under the influence of radical feminism, gay liberation, black power... also the period in which my marriage finally broke down, I left my wife and children, and 'came out 'as gay."

Wood's emancipation freed him to accumulate a bevy of controversial but well-thought-out opinions — for example, urging a reexamination of William Friedkin's Cruising: "It is a remarkable paradox that a film almost universally perceived as anti-gay should sally perceived as anti-gay should produce at its center one of the produce at its center one of the fundamental social/psychoanalytic insights on which the case for gay liberation rests." He extols the pioneering American horror films of the '70s: "[Tobe Hooper's] The Texas Chain-Saw Massacre achieves the force of authentic art. Watching it recently with a large." achieves the force of authentic art. Watching it recently with a large, half-stoned youth audience who cheered and applauded every one of Leatherface's outrages against their representatives onscreen was a terrifying experience." Provocatively, he links Freud's theories about humanity's essential bieszuality to a bold examination of the homosexual subtext in Martin Scorsese's Raging Bull.

"The single most disturbing sequence of scenes in the film is

sequence of scenes in the film is the section in 1947 where an over-weight Jake [Robert De Niro in his weight Jake [Robert De Niro in his Oscar role] jokes in a nightclub scene with a table of Mafia goons about his upcoming fight with a young prettyboy contender, Tony Janiro. 'I don't know whether to fuck him or fight him.' Later, at home, Jake awakens [his wife] Vickie and resumes his interroga-

Vickie and resumes his interroga-tion about other men, finally at-tributing remarks about Janiro's beauty to her. 'I don't even know what he looks like,' she replies. "[During the fight,] Jake delib-erately destroys Janiro's face, with a complicit smile at Vickie. He has effectively destroyed the threat that Janiro posed, not as attractive to Vickie, but as attractive to himself."

#### Screwball this

One way to read Wood is through the backdoor, so to speak, the later, newly-added sections, which kick off with a lively essay on the decline of screwball comewhich Rick oil with a lively essay on the decline of screwball comedy, concluding with a heartfelt defense of My Best Friend's Wedding as modern screwball at its best, with the ironic pairing of star Julia Roberts with a gay man (Rupert Everett). Wood also gives a very unconventional reading of youthmarket films, revealing his own guilty pleasure to be the American Pie series, affirming the pro-girl charms of the Cameron Crowepenned Fast Times at Ridgemont High, and uncovering a couple of Canadian youth classics that have fallen between the cracks on their way straight to video.

A topical touch has Wood

A topical touch has Wood weighing in on the credentials of our dear Arnold by taking a swipe at the film that made him box-office. "John Milius' Conan the Barfice. "John Milius' Conan the Barbarian... [parades] its Fascism shamelessly in instantly recognizable popular signifiers... unabashedly [celebrating] the Aryan male physique with a single-mindedness that would have delighted Leni Riefenstahl."

### **Turandot**

◆ page 44

sympathetic Liu. She is not in her sympathetic Liu. She is not in her best voice in Act I's "Signore, ascolta," but rises to the fore in the Act III "Tu che di gel sei cinta." Gallardo-Domas works hard to achieve her pianissimi, but there is a simple pathos to her performance that earns deserved bravos from the audiones of the field. mance that earns deserved bravos from the audience at the final curtain call. Gergiev's conducting seems more self-effacing than Levine, but what he does with the Vienna Philharmonic's gorgeous string section in the final act is a sign of greatness.

When Puccini died in 1924 at the age of 66, he had only completed sketches of the opera's final two scenes. With the concluding duet that depicts Turandot's essential transformation unfinished,

tial transformation unfinished, composer Franco Alfano was en-listed to complete the opera. When his initial efforts did not meet with Toscanini's approval, Alfano creat-

ed a second version, shortened by a third. Though Toscanini hon-ored Puccini at the April 25, 1926 premiere by ending the opera at the point where Puccini dropped his pen, Toscanini led the first per-formance of Alfano's shortened completion two days later. Alfano's orchestration may not sound like Puccini's, but the recapitulation of major themes and reinforcement of Puccini's grandeur have proven such a success that his completion has become standard performance

The Salzburg DVD offers the first recording of the late Luciano Berio's alternate completion of the opera's final two scenes. With its new orchestral interlude and far new orchestral interlude and far more restrained ending, Berio's conclusion replaces quasi-celestial grandeur with a far more reflec-tive and sobering view of the re-demptive power of love. Many will miss the oversized spectacle of Puccini/Alfano/Zeffirelli, but there is a depth to the Berio/ Pountney conception that demands to be seen and heard.

mands to be seen and heard.
After Liu sacrifices herself on
Calaf's behalf, her lifeless corpse is
placed on a surgical table, with
Turandot and Calaf positioned on
either side. As Berio's extended
new orchestral interlude signals
Turandot's transformation from imperious Princess to compassionate being, she begins to wipe Liu's body. The washcloth is then passed to Calaf, who continues to bathe the body until the two protagonists perform the final cleansing together.

To music simultaneously mysterious and subdued, the chorus gradually comes forward, dressed in modern clothes. Standing on the same bare stage as her "sub-jects," Turandot embraces Calaf as members of the chorus break into Couples and embrace as well. Though we at times hear Puccini's familiar melodies, the far less ecstatic orchestration, a century apart from Puccini's language, concludes the opera on a quieter, more human note.

### **Joan Baez**

**▼** page 39

dazzling Baez-penned title track to her covers of songs by Jackson Browne ("Fountain of Sorrow"), Stevie Wonder ("Never Dreamed You'd Leave in Summer"), Bob Dylan ("Simple Twist of Fate"), John Prine ("Hello In There") and Janis lan ("Jessie"). Even the lyricless "Dida," featuring Joni Mitchell on background vocals, is a pleasure. Baez's two final A&M releaser from "76, Gulf Winds (containing "Sweeter for Me") and the live album From Every Stage (including "Please Come to Boston"), are

also included here.

Baez was never again as prolific in the recording studio as she was during her time on A&M in the '70s, and her '80s and '90s output was somewhat uneven. Dark Chords on a Big Guitar (Koch), her first new studio album since '97's Gone from Danger, is a smoky and moody return to form. Baez covmoody return to form. Baez covers a set of songs by some of the best young songwriters currently working, and in doing so gives them deserved exposure. Songwriter Greg Brown's "Sleeper" opens the album, and his "Rexroth's Daughter" follows shortly thereafter, and Baez sounds thoroughly engaged on both tunes. Her warm reading of Ryan Adams' "In My Time of Need" makes me well up each time I hear it. Caitlin Cary's "Rosemary Moore" allows Baez the chance to sing the blues, as does her interpretation of Natalie Merchant's "Motherland." "Caleb Meyer" and "Elvis Presley Highway" are two songs by acclaimed songwriting team Gillian Welch and David Rawlings, and Baez's renderings are respectful. The album closes with Steve Earle's "Christmas in Washington," which allows eternal activist Baez a chance to be political and extend a wish for peace on Earth and a wish for peace on Earth and goodwill towards men. ▼

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Fife's Resort Aug 15, 16. Fr/Sa We smiled and looked at each other a lot poolside. You wore long blue jams; me, 15-20 yrs older, short brn hair. We talked about the puppy. I want to know you! 22 72795

Love The Lip Ring, Tatoos. Sunday afternoon at the #5 stop. You, a vision in a powder blue muscle shirt. Me, a sight with books and a cane. You made my day. Can we talk? \$2 72796

Big Masc. Sam, & Fine Muscle Steve...
I'm your "Gardner". I think you both be nice to one day take a break and hang out in the hot tub ... Naked!!! Is it possible! Signed Gardner, in Hilly Oaktown USA \$\mathbb{Q}\$ 72806

"Missed Connections"
Rick, the cock worshipper in Alameda. I live near the lake. We got together and partied. You came and picked me up.
Didn't write correct phone #. Let's do it again. 12 72811

Both Of Us Were Walking.... Eastward on Market near Church, around 6pm. You looked at me when I walked into Ace Hardware and I smiled back. 128 72823

Dolores St. Sep. 8 Moonlit Night You- out for a walk. We glanced. You turned and waited for me as I got into my car. I looked back and drove off. Crazy moon. Let's talk. 22 72824

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72783

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White man 50 5'11", 197lbs seeking
White man 40-60 for relationship love
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28

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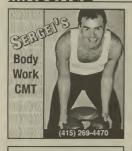
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Sexy blond will rub you down

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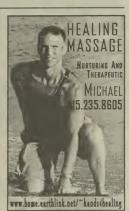
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Very handsome, well-endowed, strong gentle & friendly CMT 465-2662

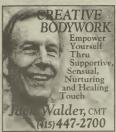
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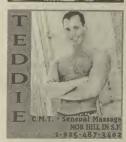
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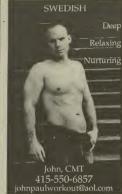


















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Sexy blond will rub you down **HOT EURO BOY** 

Horny 23 yo bottom/smooth 5'7" 135# In/Out. 415-210-1526. Sean

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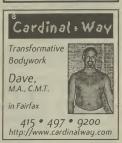
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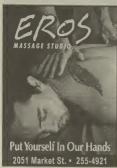
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I am a 25 year old model that has been in several large publications. 6'3
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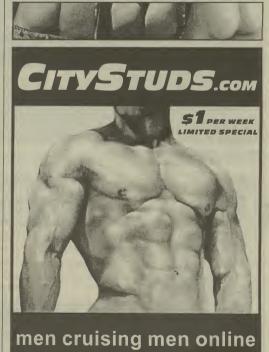




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